WORLD / A30

Venezuela's Chavez seeks papal mea culpa for native slaps

SPORTS / A31

RP five bows to Syria anew; clashes with Qatar for third

ACROSS / A17

Protests mar canvassing of votes by Comelec in Luzon

NEWS / A2

Tension heightens in Cotabato City, Shariff Kabunsuan

Comelec count puts Pichay in 10th place

By Leila B. Salaverria, Jocelyn R. Uy and Cathy Yamsuan

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PROGRESO PEHAY a senatorial candidate of the administration's Team Unity (TU), bested an opposition foe May 8 (2) in the canvass of returns by the Commission on Elections.

Pichay's 10th place in the Comelec's "partial

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, May 21, 2007 44 | 11 sections | Vol. 22 / No. 162 P18 | website: www.inquirer.net

Bush presidency worst in history, says Carter

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH'S presidency is "the worst in history" in international relations and he has mismanaged Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair's loyal

'I filled up ballots in Maguindanao'

Pineda questions priest's win

By Tonrae Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—LUBAO candidate Lilia Pineda is contesting the victory of Fr. Eddie Panlilio in Pampanga governor.

Pineda's lawyer has filed a notice of appeal on the ruling of the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC) that had denied a petition seeking the exclusion of the certificates of canvass of votes from Mabalacat at Floridablanca.

Mabalacat had seven "manu-ual spurious" election returns (ERs) when the municipality had only two precincts, the petition said.

The appeal is expected to be filed today with the PBOC, which is chaired by Commission on Elections provincial supervisor Sonia Lambino.

Lambino announced the PBOC's junking of the petition after the Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBOC) confirmed the "error in transmission/computation" is reported in a certification issued to Pineda's lawyer.

The MBOC earlier issued to the town Honolulu, Pineda's counsel, an amended certification that the town had 209 election returns and that it had no returns or spurious ERs.

Primo Bobis, Panlilio's lawyer, said the certification was "not an of-

TURN TO A2

LENNY Lorena Ortega makes shoulder bags out of campaign tarpaulins at her home.

Cousins recycle campaign billboards into school bags

By Kristine L. Alave

TWO ENVIRONMENTALLY CONscious entrepreneurs are proving that politicians have some use, after all.

Reggie Clemente and her cousin, Jody Pacheco, have found a use for the election campaign billboards and tarpaulins found for the trash bin.

With the midterm elections over, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has ordered the removal of the posters and other campaign materials in the metropolis.

Clemente, a member of Mother Earth Philippines, and she and her cousin were bracing for a deluge of materials for their project.

They make sling bags for boys and simple shoulder bags for girls.

"We'd like to introduce the concept that the political banners can be a useful thing, like a bag," Clemente said.

She said politicians should instruct their supporters and cleanup crews to save their campaign banners and send the materials to her group.

Because her group doesn't have enough funds to make the bags and pay their sewers, she urged politicians to support the project.

He (they said) start their own community of sewers who could make the bags, Clemente said.

She volunteered to help the politicians set up their own recycled bag programs.

COMING A22

Teacher details poll cheating in province

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

IT HAPPENED IN THE DEAD of night, hours before the polling precincts opened.

With armed guards supposedly watching over them, they were forced to fill blank ballots with the names of Team Unity senatorial candidates, starting with Luis "Chavit" Singson and Prospero Pichay.

Students and other children loitering in the school premises were purportedly even asked to mark the ballots with their thumbprints and sign their names on the voters list.

This was how the "election" took place at least in some areas of Maguindanao—at least based on the account of a female public school teacher in the province.

The anonymous teacher talked to Lente, the legal arm of the watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), Lutgo Aconcagua Carlos Medilla said at a press conference yesterday.

Hand in hand with the teacher's allegation, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) accused Commissioner on Elections (Comelec) officer in Maguindanao of withholding copies of provincial election returns from Namfrel volunteers.

Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia and the delay in the turnover of the ERs rendered suspect the authenticity of whatever documents would be given hereafter to the forum.

Namfrel chair Edmund Go said Maguindanao's 346,000 votes were enough to influence the outcome of the 12th and 12th places in the senatorial race.

He said that instead of votes being tallied in precincts, all ballot boxes were handed to the provincial capitol where the votes were scanned. But no Namfrel volunteer was allowed to witness this.

Namfrel's Maguindanao chair Fr. Edmundo Inocalmond, OMI, said, "Our volunteers were told that municipal election officers issued a verbal order to withhold the release of all copies of the

TURN A2

Common Pampanga folk assert will from the ground

By Amando Doronila

AN ECO-EVENT IN PAMPANGA—THE election of a Catholic priest, Eddie Panlilio, as governor—has aroused national attention in a politically flawed by despotism and has been hailed as a pointer to a new direction of hope for Philippine politics.

It was a singular event of truly general-breaking significance, to analyze it save moment in the history of the country, a Catholic priest won election to a secular office, in a country where the Catholic ethos expelled the state separated Church and State.

The other extraordinary aspects of his election include Panlilio's standing for office without the official blessings of the

ANALYSIS

Catholic hierarchy and without campaign funds and the

backing of any political party. Panlilio challenged the well-heeled traditional power brokers in Pampanga, including a candidate associated with repeated "jueteng lord" Rodolfo "Boy"

COMMON A22

Masbate: Old dynasty out, new dynasty in

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER HOLDING KEY ELECTIVE POSitions in Masbate for more than 39 years, the Espinosa clan, save for one in law, was wiped out of power last week.

The long wait was over on Friday when the Commission on Elections declared the winners in the gubernatorial and three congressional races.

In the gubernatorial race, Rep. Emilio Espinosa Jr., whose deputy speaker for Lucio, lost by a wide margin—22,697 votes—to Dr. Elsa Olga Kho, the spouse of his arch-rival, outgoing Gov. Antonio

FORMER'S A22

HAILOLI Espinosa loses congressional seat. ...or

DR. Elsa Olga Kho replaces husband as governor.

GOOD PRODUCT, BAD PACKAGING

Why 3 Kapatiran bets lost

By Christian V. Esguerra

TOO MUCH ALONE DOESN'T WIN elections.

The candidacies of Ang Kapatiran ran rocked this when senator in the May 14 elections began scoring in showing they were headed for defeat in the senatorial race.

No one among Manuel Roxas, Jesus Jurado Sarmiento and Adrian Sison even came within striking distance of the Magic 12 seat being given respectively by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

Consulting-debut, Morales and Asuncion analyzed what went wrong in their seemingly promising political advocacy and the lessons they learned.

To begin with, the two candidates admitted their ideations alone couldn't bring about victory even for three highly driven candidates campaigning under the banner of "God-centered politics."

"There was too much focus on the advocacy and we forgot about the nitty-gritty of a political campaign," Morales, a lawyer, told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

He and Asuncion wondered, for instance, how the Kapatiran candidates could save without volunteers or funds advertisements. To think that the biggest contribution to the campaign, such as the administration's Pinapuri- Pichay, focused heavily on a media campaign.

"There was really a problem with awareness," said Asuncion, a

WHY A22

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Grenade blast raises tension in South

By Ryan Rosauro, Edwin D. Fernandez, Nash Mendoza, Jeoffrey Maitem and Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—TENSION HERE AND IN NEARBY SHARIF Kabuntalan province continued to rise with another explosion going off in Parang town on Friday.

This developed as the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) urged the Commission on Elections and the police to insure few more violence in areas still hot on results from areas where elections were held were marking on noon on.

Earlier, the Comelec suspended before-dawn at least 11 areas del fan towns following incidents of poll-related attacks.

The elections in the towns of Talitay, Buluan, Datumanggunay, Sultan Dumalondong, Mamasapano, Pagalungan, Sultan Mastura, Parang, Matanog, Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Datu Unsay were held on May 14.

In the Parang municipal, Chief Supt. Josef Calalan, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police, said unidentified suspects fired what might have been a rocket-propelled grenade toward the Parang Elementary School most midnight on Friday.

But the explosion caused the school, which hides from nearby towns were being kept, and landed in a canal but behind.

Calalan said no one was injured in the explosion, which he said was apparently meant to damage the number of ballot boxes from the towns of Barira, Buldon and Matanog for counting/tabulation in Parang.

Two days earlier, unidentified men torched the municipal hall of Buldon town.

Calalan said the Parang explosion took place even as authorities were still figuring out the motive and the identity of the perpetrators of the bomb attacks in Sultan Kudarat and Sara Cotabato General Santos City, which left one child dead and over two dozen people wounded.

Cotabato City Mayor Muhaimin Sema described Friday's explosion at the Mosna bus terminal as "perpetrated by people who do not fear God."

"In short, they belong to a satanic organization," he said.

Sema said Chief Supt. Calalan the police were eyeing terrorists behind the bombing, he was not discounting the possibility that a terror group was behind the attack.

"There are traces of the damnah Islamiah terrorist group in this blast but we are validating this theory," Senior Supt. Dionisio Aldag, city police chief, said.

He said the explosion might also being linked into since the law company had received extortion letters in the past.

The Cotabato City police said they had launched a manhunt for a man and a woman who allegedly brought in the box containing the powerful improvised explosive device shortly before the blast.

Jun Adam, Mosna bus terminal manager, said he believed he was the target of the fourth attack because of his refusal to give in to demands of extortion groups.

"[A terror attack] is a strong possibility because the bomb was placed in a highly populated area which was a terminal ... the attacker was not merely scaring trying; it (bomb) was meant to maim and kill people," Aldag said.

But party-list group Bantay Bangsamoro said the bombing could have been staged to deny the people's extortion away from the massive cheating and electoral fraud in Maguindanao, where Sultan Unday's 22-0 sweep in the latest tally has been questioned.

In Barangay Kiay, Datu Abdullah Dalidig, Lanao del Sur Namfrel chair, said the tempers of the town's candidates were also rising.

Dalidig cited yesterday's attack on the houses of Lanao governor Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr. and his brother vice governor.

No one was reported hurt in the attack but two of Mamintal's vehicles were damaged, prompting his security men from pursuing the perpetrators.

In Tacurong province, a political leader of gubernatorial candidate and incumbent Vice Gov. Jaime Soriano was shot dead in front of his house in Isilanian town on Friday night, police said last Sunday.

But the police denied the killing of Nelson Pilotin, 58, was politically motivated.

"This killing has nothing to do with politics. We're looking at a land dispute as a possible motive in the case," said Senior Supt. Fernando Chito, Quezon police director.

But Soriano's father, Rep. Danny Suarez, said they believed the killing of Villaflor was due to the victim's role in his son's candidacy.

Suarez said the victim was the program coordinator and spoke during their campaign rallies in northern Quezon. With Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

GMA wants polls automated as part of development plan

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday called for the full automation of the country's elections.

Ms Arroyo said electoral reforms, particularly automated elections, were "essential to political stability" as contained in her maiden term development plan.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye blamed administrative problems attributed in failure to replace the country's "antiquated system of voting, canvassing and tabulation that started around several decades ago."

"Yes, for this miracle of modernization to take place, we need to set in our nation committed to elevating its electoral system to a state of the art democratic exercise," said Bunye in his weekly column, "Here from the Palace."

He noted that the latest issue of "The Economist" described the country's voting system as "theft" which puts the people through an "absurd ordeal."

"While the article only describes the difficulty of having to fill up a ballot with 29-plus names, and therefore giving an advantage to well-known names over existing known but a host of other anticipated lesser-in that need to go," he said.

Bunye pointed out the flaws in the electoral process involving names, the presence of dead people's names on voters' lists, electoral fraud and even slow counting of votes.

According to him, three years between now and the 2010 election should give the Commission on Elections sufficient time to implement the needed electoral reforms, notably the automation of the election process.

The administration, he said, is "certainly up to the challenge of electoral reforms. Let us hope that such reforms will form part of a nation-building agenda that all servants and political parties can support as a solemn towards constructive political engagement and increased people's participation in national governance."

He said, however, that the processes involved in automation are huge, subject to budgetary support and a troublefree, fully transparent and acceptable bidding process...must be in place.

Bunye said that the three years from the Comelec—from the time it bought computer equipment to implement the 2004 elections to the time Congress passed into law the automation of elections this year—was sufficient time to facilitate the implementation of an automated polling system.

He noted that Congress did pass a law on automated elections early this year but the Comelec said it came too late to implement it.

Heroes' fund

THE Inquirer is spearheading a fund-drive for the victims of violence during the voter elections.

The proceeds will benefit the next kin of the victims of the incidents related to the elections as per the Comelec at the time to ensure orderly and honest elections.

Readers who want to make a difference may deposit their donations to Philamlife Tower Inquirer Foundation Inc. 4951-0009-56 or Metrobank Acct. No. 208 7 208 50150 2. Fax the deposit slip to fax no. 896-6426. Be inquired, call Inquirer Corporate Affairs, tel. 897-2000 local 208.

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
4 DAY Public Auction
MAY 30, 31-JUNE 1 & 2, 2007
MAY 26-27-28 & 29
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Comp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: MAY 19, 20, & 21, 2007
AUCTION VENUE: TOMBOY MINE
BEST PRICES QUALITY DEALS
NO MINIMUM PRICE NO RESERVATION
MAY 22, 23 & 24, 2007
(TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY)
9AM STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
THE FINEST SOURCE for your BUSINESS NEEDS with PRIDE and RETURN!
BLDG. 1455 GROOMAY HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS. (047) 252-1139 • 252-1155 TO 58 • (02) 500-5810
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES (63) 711-1270 • 531-1605, (0917) 1262824 • (049) 5181870
FAX NO. (047) 252-1509 E-MAIL: uaoffice@uai.pinoymail.com • WEBSITE: www.uaauction.pinoymail.com

Lowest Price Guaranteed or Your Money Back
Buy computers online
ALL NEW!
Intel Pentium D 2.80
P 23,640.00 w/ 17" LCD
Call Center: (02) 418-7823
www.buyqube.com
Manila Cebu Davao
Sun: 0922-418-6849 to 50

Dreams are good

Realities are better

citi let's get it done

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

INQUIRER

50% OFF

IPL upon enrollment from May 21-26, 2007 only!

LESS IS MORE.

Less flaws. Less blemishes. And less make-up to put on! With IPL, you'll get rid of freckles, enlarged pores, dark spots, hyperpigmentation and other imperfections. You can bare a naturally flawless face – even without foundation or concealer! Get glowing skin and take the years off your face. Call Facial Care now for your FREE consultation.

892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

MAKATI ORTIGAS TORRE BONIFACIO BINONDO ALABANG BIÑAN CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3484) CEBU (233-7511)

Shades of '04 polls, Padaca claims of motion filed by Dy

By Melvin Sarsale and Villarion Vinuya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

ILAGAN, ISABELA—BOGUS! Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca yesterday said the delay in her proclamation as the governor of Isabela, an election for open seats, a repeat of the baroness' move she was subjected to during the 2004 polls.

Padaca was referring to the way her proclamation was blocked in 2004 by a Cosmic candidate in favor of the incumbent Governor Faustino Dy III, after the camp of her rival, Benjamin Dy moved to refer to the Comelec in Manila the question on whether to continue the canvassing of 209 canvass-of-election returns.

Errors and defects

It was the camp of Dy that moved for the exclusion of the 209 returns, representing about 3% percent of the precincts in Ilagan, now supposed errors or defects, such as missing countersigns and defective seals. They also moved to exclude 81 returns from Tumauini town.

The swirling winds of the annulled returns by the municipal board of canvassers (MBOC) has delayed the provincial canvassing—but only for the gubernatorial contest. The canvassing resumes apparently clear Padaca-running mate Dy.

Dubos questioned why the Ilagan board of canvassers ruled to exclude the contested IDs but counted the votes for vice governor and other lower positions and even entry-in-in-graduate the winning local candidates.

"If there were questions on the integrity of the election returns, why were the votes of the other candidates counted at all?" she asked.

Padaca, citing the Comelec tally from 16 of Isabela's 36 towns, said she was leading with 267,244 votes against the 199,176 votes of Governor Dy, now in the 2 margin of 13,068 votes. The results the cited excluded all returns from Ilagan town.

Sweeping allegations

The PBOC count as of 2 p.m. Sunday, however, included the contested returns from Ilagan and Tumauini, except the contested returns. It showed Padaca still leading with 319,625 votes and Dy with 314,350 votes, for a difference of 5,275 votes.

In the Dubos quick-count tally conducted by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), Padaca won with 250,366 votes to 230,614 for Dy, for a margin of 19,752.

Rep. Faustino Dy III, Benjamin Dy's brother, denied Padaca's allegation that their camp was deliberately delaying her proclamation by using technicalities and threats.

"These are sweeping allegations ... We are the underdogs here and we are being tagged as if we have an eight [to-one disadvantage]," said Dy III. He claimed his brother won, based on the monitoring of results by their camp.

In any case, Padaca said she was relieved when the provincial board of canvassers, on the motion of her lawyer, Leila de Lima, ruled to direct the Ilagan MBOC to reconvene and make a provisional tally for the votes for governor.

She called on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who also happens to be the commissioner in charge for Cagayan Valley, not to delay the canvass and the proclamation of winners.

Sudden disappearance

Stalled canvassing in Alicia campus City also had tongues wagging in Bulacan.

The delay was caused by the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the election offices of Alicia, canvassed City.

The Abuyuanyan results were expected to determine the final winner in the closely contested contest among former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, Board Member Joselito Mendoza and Vice Gov. Josefa Flamenco.

Yesterday Dolfo Pobre, Central Luzon Comelec director and concurrent Bulacan election officer, said they were still looking for Guillow Pulligan, election officer of Bayanuyan, border delaying the canvass.

Rosario Hernández, an official in the Bulacan Comelec, however, said Pulligan's staff delivered the ballot boxes containing the election returns from Mendoza.

Official results from 21 of 24 towns and cities in Bulacan showed Mendoza leading with 276,033 votes. Pagdanganan received 252,308 votes while Flamenco got 139,224 votes. With reports from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

Does your audience prefer to read your report than listen to you?

POWERFUL PRESENTATION SKILLS
July 10-12, 2007
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Perk up your presentations by honing valuable skills like **starting and ending with impact, developing an extended style, delivering lines spontaneously**, and **managing your audience properly**. Learn how to **plan your presentation properly, present numbers and statistics in a clear manner**, and **design and use eye-catching visuals** to address your audience's needs. With Powerful Presentation Skills, you will:

- Prepare yourself and your materials properly before the performance
- Learn how to size up an audience and determine the best approach
- Structure a presentation so that the audience will understand and "buy into" your message
- Start off and close with a bang
- Design and use high-impact visual aids
- Gain more power, poise and presence
- Avoid boring presentations
- Field questions like a pro
- Deliver tense and dysfunctional situations
- Facilitate a presentation smoothly and seamlessly

There's more to presenting than clicking a mouse and reading what's on the screen.

This program is designed for **all members** of your organization who want to improve their presentation skills.

Are your business operations aligned with your strategies?

OPERATIONAL PLANNING
July 10-12, 2007
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

Everyone knows the importance of a good plan, but knowing what it looks like and actually writing one are two different things. Below is model that is **simple and easily applicable**. Analyze your **current situation** and **set goals accordingly. Determine performance indicators, monitor implementation**, and **fine tune** as you go while keeping a **realistic budget**. With Operational Planning, you will:

- Ensure that your plans fit into your organization's strategic direction
- Discover the 6 key Elements of the Operational Plan
- Evaluate exactly where your business is right now
- Avoid confusion and focus only on the most essential elements of your business
- Set the means of measuring your business' success
- Make your business objectives come alive
- Create action plans that will bring your business to the right path to success
- Chart your finances and create a meaningful operational budget

Make the plan work for you.

This program is designed for **Chief Operating Officers, Vice Presidents, General Managers, Managing Directors, Senior Managers and other managers who need to come up with a viable operating plan.**

Losing your cool?

HANDLING COMPLAINTS
July 17-18, 2007
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

We often get irritated when customers start complaining, not realizing that they're actually doing us a favor. Learn how to **overcome your fear of complaints**, the **"do's and don'ts"** and **managing unproductive behaviors**. Develop **proactive listening skills** to help **diagnose problems** faster and **maximize the opportunity to gain customer loyalty** in a customer service handling. Complaints, you will:

- Be perceived emotionally and mentally to deal with customers on their side
- View customer complaints as a means to recover customer goodwill
- Avoid being negatively affected by the customer's anger
- Read the signs of angry customers at the earliest possible time
- Avoid fight-provoking phrases
- Dispute anger with the right words, tone of voice and behaviors
- Listen proactively in order to discover a solution to the customer's concerns
- Create solutions acceptable to both the customer and the company
- Quickly rebuild rapport with the customer
- Follow through to make sure all agreements and commitments are delivered
- Preserve and strengthen your relationship with the customer

Customers aren't nuisances to your job; they are your job.

This program is designed for **sales and service personnel, customer service officers, collectors, credit and account officers, receptionists, secretaries, office clerks**, and **frontliners** who want to improve their customer relations skills.

27 Years Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

Call us if you want to customize a program for 10 or more people.

For inquiries and reservations call Ara, Caroline, Diane, Li, or Tessa at **892-7689, 894-0648**, or **892-7041** or visit **www.guthrie-jensen.com**
7/F Gloar Tower Bldg., Carlos Palanca Jr. St. Legaspi Vill., Makati City

Leviste says elder Ermita behind stay of proclamation

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DEJECTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA could be using his position as the "Ulilo presidente" to cause his son Edwin Ermita defeat in the Batangas vice governorship race.

This according to Mark Leviste, who won over Ermita by 38,000 votes based on the Commission on Elections' final official score.

The unofficial tally of the Batelo Provincial Council for Incapacitation Rating (PPCIR) said Leviste (Nacionalista Party) garnered 1,000 votes. Ermita (Nacionalista) also showed that Leviste defeated Ermita by roughly 45,000 votes.

However, while the Comelec had proclaimed the other winning candidates in Batangas, the poll body withheld the proclamation of Leviste's proclamation as the new vice governor, to give due course to the petition filed by Ermita declaring a failure of elections in the towns of Ibo, Tomas and Tayuan.

"I will not be a hypocrite. I cannot help but think that the executive secretary has something to do with the suspension of my proclamation as the new vice governor, that his son is using the influence and power of his father," Leviste said yesterday in a press conference in Manila.

Based on a copy of the Comelec's final Statement of Votes (SOV), which was shown to the media yesterday, Leviste received a total of 314,847 votes while Ermita garnered 276,839 votes.

The poll body upheld the victory of former Mayor Hilita Santos as the new Batangas governor, Victor Mariagal Jr. as Tayuan mayor, Alvin Sandoval as the new Ibo, Tomas mayor, but suspended Leviste's proclamation.

Acknowledged as vice governor

On Friday, Leviste said he can join the elder Ermita, who came with President Macapagal-Arroyo to pay tribute to the teacher who died in the May 15 grade-school fire at the Pinagbayanan Elementary School in Tayuan.

He said he approached the executive secretary and greeted him. Ermita, he said, acknowledged him as the new vice governor.

"But while he referred to me as the new vice governor, they were preparing a petition against me," Leviste said.

Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento Sorita, who signed the order issued by the Comelec en banc, directed the provincial board of canvassers to suspend Leviste's proclamation if there is an order or a restraint the petition on Friday.

"Commissioner Sorita encouraged his nation- [illegible] the decision to issue a suspension order was capricious, whimsical and despotic," Leviste said.

In the petition, which Ermita filed before 2 p.m. on Friday, Leviste was accused of various acts, including acts of burning a hand in the burning of the school in Tayuan, which claimed the lives of a grade number and a teacher.

Ermita alleged that Leviste and gubernatorial candidate Armand Sanchez distributed thousands of money, ranging from P5,000 to P10,000 each to the mayor of Tayuan and barrilan in the two towns.

The 39-year-old Leviste denied the accusations of Ermita, whom he described as a "desperate, disgruntled and sore-grieving candidate."

He said that he wanted to run a clean-acting budget and without the financial support of his parents.

Leviste said that as a champion of education, he would not even think of burning down a school.

"The head of Commissioner Sorita is very evident. He did not even need efforts to come up with a well-structured suspension order and merely resorted to copying verbatim the petition of [Ermita]," he said, reading from a prepared statement.

Leviste's lawyer, Ma. Soccro Aranjuezo, said she would file a motion for reconsideration to the Comelec to lift the suspension of her client's proclamation.

San Carlos mayor finally laid to rest

SAN CARLOS CITY—CHRISTINE PLACIDO [illegible] mourning justice, residents of this Pangasinan city marched behind the hearse carrying Mayor Julius Benedicto's remains in the evening [illegible] plan here yesterday.

The procession left Benedicto's political campaign headquarters at 11 a.m., proceeded to the Catholic Church here for a Mass, and went down to the city hall before proceeding to the Holy Garden Memorial Park in Barangay Agdao where he was buried at 2:30 p.m.

Thousands of residents lined the route to the cemetery after carrying placards saying "Justice for Mayor Julius Benedicto." Black ribbons adorned many houses and houses.

Benedicto was shot dead on April 28 as he worked the crowd at an auditorium where a beauty pageant was being held to mark the 8-mile fiesta. He was campaigning for the vice mayoral slot.

He died two days later at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

A suspect in the slaying was arrested in a hospital in this city. Police are hunting a second suspect.

Benedicto's son Julius and his brother Jessie were elected mayor and vice mayor, respectively, in the May 14 elections. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, August 10 Northern Luzon

"I lived in Australia where Alfalfa, Barley and Wheatgrass (ABW) are quite well known as natural sources of amino acids, enzymes, nutrients and minerals.
I'm glad that ABW- Leaves of Life is now available in the Philippines.

Pilita Corrales
Ageless

Actress/Queen of Songs

I guess my internal anti-ageing secret is now out.

ABW with the Power Of Three contains the enzyme Superoxide Dismutase (SOD), a powerful antioxidant that counteracts free radicals which contribute to ageing and degenerative diseases such as cancer. ABW is also a detoxifier that expels toxins from the body, leaving you clean and healthy inside with a beautiful complexion as well.

How does ABW work? Simple, it's a nutritional powerhouse that assists in regulating and balancing our body chemistry by harmonizing our acid-alkaline levels. Which means, all the nutrients from food, vitamins and other supplements work more efficiently.

It's my secret to living younger inside and out. ABW Leaves of Life is a natural source of energy that keeps me going all day, everyday, that provides me the deepest and soundest sleep. I wake up totally refreshed and rejuvenated.

Welcome to my secret for ageing slowly and living beautifully."

ABW
Leaves of Life
Whole Barley • Wheatgrass

100% NATURAL AND ORGANIC* HEALTH SUPPLEMENT
NATURE'S FINEST ANTI-OXIDANTS AND NUTRITIONAL POWERHOUSES

Available at all major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide

TEL # (632) 3414 1111 FAX # TEXT: info@abwlife.com WEB: www.abwlife.com

CharaGen®

Managing your blood sugar level is a cup of tea.

ABS Herbs

ABS Gen-Herbs International Corporation

SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODIES. GREAT SKIN.

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

FOR ENROLEES TODAY! TO GET YOU STARTED.

Plus! FREE TRIAL!

PERSONAL TRAINING AND ALL THE LATEST AIROBICS!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 0% INTEREST! NO MONEY DOWN! WITH MEDICAL SUPERVISION

BODY METRICS
LOSE 16 INCHES IN ONLY 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITE

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO HAVE A GREAT BODY BUT CANNOT BE CONVINCED TO EXERCISE, AND SURGERY IS NOT AN OPTION.
TRY OUR PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS! GET FANTASTIC RESULTS WITH EFFICIENT PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS! STARTS AT ONLY P1000.00 PER TREATMENT.

Introducing! VelaSlim
SCULPT YOUR CURVES... BODIES DONE, HAVE FUN!

CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE NUMBER 091-SLIMMERS (7546637 7)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS. FIRST 25 SLOTS.
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%

- MESO WHITE
- MESO REJUVENATION
- COSMETIC FILLERS
- NUTRACELL-FACE
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- SKIN WHITENING
- FACIAL

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL
For beautiful smooth white skin.

CALL US: SKIN HOTLINE 525-8771
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS NUMBER (7546637 7)

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO · AstroVision · Automatic CENTRE · ABENSON · WESTERN · Robinsons Appliances · MUSIC · BLADE · avanf · Kultura · Housewares & Appliance Center · TERNSSAIN SANNSEN · ADDESSA · ABENSON · BHF · GUANZON · NCCC MALL · ABENSON

Namfrel computers safe from hackers, group's chief says

By Carby Yumaan

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday assured the public that its computers system is impervious to hackers, following reports that someone tried to gain access to its network Thursday night.

"We assured parents people from trying but we can prevent people from trying," in an interview, Namfrel chair Edward Gilbert reporters yesterday.

On inside the count line after admitting that the internet service at its headquarters at the La Salle area in Greenhills, San Juan, began "flickering" that night.

While the incident did not disrupt Namfrel's operations, Gilbert offered no data alerted the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and Smart Telecommunications "to check and make sure the system was up."

He expressed confidence that it would not be easy for hackers to break into Namfrel's computers.

"Normally, you install a 'firewall' to prevent attempts to disrupt the system. But our systems provider Kimpay presented us our own (firewall) so I can't tell with no firewalls," Gilbert during a news conference.

"And if the first time of detected, it's not something that you turn down itself down so nothing can enter to do other, and still open for us normally," he said.

Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia pointed out that Stanford had "efforts duplicated" that would result in inspections any information destroyed by hackers.

While Namfrel has not identified the person or party that may have attempted to disrupt its computers, he was assured by the incident.

"Maybe there are malicious persons trying to test (us), trying to do harm. We cannot avoid attempts but we can control that we will not be handled," he said.

Lo, ever appeared amused when he related how "someone from Mindanao" sent "unverified information" through his several computers to his email address.

He said the crude attempts to influence Namfrel's calculations are quickly noticed since it uses transmission with previous messages sent from the same area.

To calculate the results of the 2007 elections was faster than the one conducted in 2004.

As of yesterday, five days after the election, Namfrel had received, verified and released tabulations from 25.9 percent of precincts nationwide.

In 2004, Go said Namfrel had released only 17.5 percent of nationwide tabulations five days after the May 11 election.

"We have historical data to prove we are not that slow. People only get that impression because the electronic network counts had zoomed up quickly. In fact, their counters were not official while our data came from election returns," he said.

Apologize for blaming NPA for fire, cops told

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLice should apologize to the New People's Army for blaming the latter for the May 6 torching of an elementary school in Tayum, Abra, which killed a teacher and a student.

It turned out that policemen were allegedly involved in the fire.

Rep. Crispin Beltran, spokesperson of the CPP statement because they were busy completing their investigation, Officials said they were likely to the charges of murder and arson against the policemen suspected.

The PNP was investigating two police officers in the Cordilleran area for the pre-dawn fire at the Pinaglumayan Elementary School in Tayum that killed teacher Nellie Buenag and pull teacher Leticia Bunag.

Under investigation and in the custody of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) were Tayum police chief Chief Insp. Elizalde Ramirez, Tayum mayor Leonardo Campos and police Inspector Ariel de la Cruz, Regional Special Operations Group Batangas team leader Insp. Roberto Mariñas and Sgt. Rogelio SPO2 William Bolos Jr.

Ramirez and Campos were identified by witnesses as two of the men who allegedly started the fire in the school while Ramirez and de la Cruz were under investigation for lapses in carrying out their duties.

Director Wilfredo Garcia, chief of the PNP's Directorate for Operations, told reporters in the hallway upon the other day which quoted CIDG investigators as saying that security personnel, who included De la Cruz and members of the Philippine Air Force, were ordered to leave their posts prior to the torching of the school.

Bolos confirmed that investigators were still studying the order given to De la Cruz.

"We are looking at whether there was criminal intent or not in that order," he said in a phone interview.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal demanded that the PNP take back its earlier accusation that the NPA was behind the torching of the school.

He also asked the police to "apologize to the victims of this crime and to the people of Tayum."

In a statement posted on the CPP website, Rosal said Tayum residents "thus know very well that our people's army cannot harm the people in any way."

But Bolos said there was nothing for the PNP to apologize for.

The police are now focused on getting to the bottom of the incident, Bolos said. But, Ginge, he said, "points to the policemen as being behind the fire."

Darlene proclaimed over Manny Pacquiao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Re-electionist Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio was proclaimed the winner of the congressional race in the first district of South Cotabato over losing champion Manny Pacquiao by the Commission on Elections at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Custodio beat the boxer-lawmaker by 11,000 votes in the vote. Opposition hammer while Pacquiao was allied with the administration.

Pacquiao only worried about half of Custodio's 80,000 votes in one of the city's 6 districts, the politico's counter to the country.

Pacquiao could not be reached for comment but sources in the "People's Champ Movement," the political machinery that backed the boxer, said he was sad about the outcome of his first shot at politics but vowed that this was not the end of his political career.

Local political observers said Pacquiao's closeness to President Macapagal-Arroyo was the reason for his defeat. Others said he lost did not vote for him as they perhaps felt he remain closest.

In an interview earlier over ABS-CBN television's TV Patrol, Pacquiao said he accepted the results of the election and was proud about challenging an established political family in his native city. General Santos is part of the first congressional district of South Cotabato which also includes the municipalities of Polomolok, Tupi, Tampakan, Norala, Banga, Surallah, Lake Sebu and T'boli.

"Hindi ko lang po sa namalo na sana po ay tapatin nila ang mga ipinangako nila sa mga tao sa kanilang kampanya at sana po ay ibigay nila ang hinihingi ng pangako sa mga tao," Pacquiao said. Agustin Tomio, Inquirer Mindanao

TU bets rap claim they spent too much

DAO TUAN UNITY SENSORIAL [illegible] Arroyo and Sen. Prospero "Bandi" Pichay have disputed pollster AC Nielsen's findings on their multimillion peso political ad spending for television and radio during the campaign.

Arroyo dismissed exemplified how AC Nielsen to prove its claim, or an apology from the officials of the marketing information company, which came out with the "false and malicious" report that he had spent P1.75 million on his TV and radio ads.

Pichay said that AC Nielsen had it all wrong, since he was given no lucky discounts by the television chan gee the line's share of his ads.

He denied the AC Nielsen report which pegged him as the biggest election spender, disbursing P202,746 million in the 90-day campaign.

"If Nielsen insists that its figures are correct, Ignacio admit I Bally dony because I have yet spent nowhere near that kind of money, an investigation is in order to determine who is right or wrong," said Arroyo.

Arroyo said that AC Nielsen's erroneous report cost him a "tremendous number of votes."

"Slamming such find in the midst of the national canvass impugn the integrity of the election. This issue must be settled," he said, and challenged AC Nielsen to come up with the receipts. "Ignacio is no guarantee of honesty and accuracy. This is exemplified by Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PATTS College of Aeronautics

C-to-C

Curriculum to Career

guarantees employment to qualified graduates

www.pattscollege.edu.ph

Courses Offered:

BS Aeronautical Engineering
BS Air Transportation
BS Aircraft Maintenance Technology
BS Avionics Technology
BS Tourism
BS Hotel and Restaurant Management
BS Airline Business Administration
Aircraft Technician Course

Administration bailiwick goes for GO this time

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN — WHEN TIDE SLOT from the May 14 election finally settled, Pangasinan, a traditional bailiwick of the administration, delivered the vote to the opposition.

The final and official results of the senatorial contest in the province was 6-4-2, in favor of the Genuine Opposition candidates.

Pangasinan is the province of President Maria Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's late mother and allies, former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Prior to the elections, Dr. Venecia had predicted a 9-1 victory in favor of the administration's Team Unity slate in the province, citing an aggressive campaign by the administration Lakas-CMD which he, Ramos and Ms Arroyo head.

Pangasinan has a voting population of at least 1.86 million, the biggest among the four provinces in the Ilocos region.

Based on complete official results from the provincial board of canvassers, 10 senatorial bet Loren Legarda topped the senatorial race with 565,609 votes, followed by fellow GO candidate Francis Pangilinan with 525,499 votes.

Third place went to independent candidate Francis Escudero (476,004 votes) while the fourth and fifth spots went to GO candidates Manuel Villar Jr. (367,241) and Perfecto Lacson (349,503), respectively, both reelectionist senators.

Only TU's Edgardo Angara (68th, 492,829), Joker Arroyo (eighth, 427,590), Ralph Recto (ninth, 423,612) and Prospero Pichay (10th, 375,374) made it to the Top 12.

TU's Benigno Aquino III (seventh, 464,825) and Alan Peter Cayetano (11th, 365,395) and independent candidate Gregorio Honasan (13th, 309,838) completed the winning slate.

Local political analysts and opposition candidates seen in the province because Dr Venecia was too busy campaigning in his residence in the fourth congressional district so much that he failed to campaign hard for the administration's senatorial candidates.

Gubernatorial candidate Melvin Guico, Jr. [illegible]

The new HSBC Premier.

Revel in its vibrant colors and unparalleled service. Let your dedicated Relationship Manager help you take the guesswork out of meeting your financial goals. Experience personalised banking designed to help you make the most of life's opportunities.

Come celebrate with HSBC Premier — the new standard in wealth management.

Find out just how rewarding the new HSBC Premier can be. Call +(63) (2) 85-808 or visit the Premier Centre nearest you.

www.hsbcpremier.com.ph

HSBC PREMIER

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 21, 2007
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 19:1-8
Gospel: John 16:29-33

The disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are speaking plainly and not in veiled language! Now we see that you know all things, even before we question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus answered them, "You say that you believe! The hour is coming, indeed is has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

"I have told you all this, so that in me you may have peace. You will have trouble in the world, but, courage! I have overcome the world."

Commentary:

The early Church had to deal with the fact that it received those who had not yet heard of the baptism of the Spirit that is preached about, and also has preaching about the one who would come after him. They encountered those who had repented and changed their lives but were still waiting. They promised Jesus as the one and the Spirit to come upon them, after being baptized in the name of Jesus the Lord. And when about us - Jesus' so repentant? Do we listen to the word of Jesus and pray for the Spirit to come upon us so that we might preach the Word?

Jesus speaks again and again — it takes grace, the Spirit, and time to understand even a small bit of what Jesus (the Word) made flesh is saying to us. Jesus knows that we will be scattered and we will leave him alone, leaving him (though the Father is with him, always.) He would never remember that we will suffer in the world but we are to have courage for Jesus' life and death and resurrection has overcome everything.

[illegible]

Levi's, Lewis, what's in a name? Plenty, CA rules

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MAKER OF Levi's jeans and its Philippine affiliate have had their hide in our a local jeans manufacturer for trade name infringement for making "Lewis Strong" denim pants.

Dismissed

The Court of Appeals turned down the petition of Levi Strauss & Co. and Levi Strauss (Philippines) Inc. in its recent Department of Justice resolution in 1998 and 1999 that dismissed their infringement complaint against Fred. erich Lim, owner of F.B. Rojas Commercial and Marketing Co. which makes Lewis Strong jeans.

In ruling against Levi's, the appellate court said Lewis Strong jeans could not be easily confused with Levi's jeans because of the "immense dissimilarity" between the appearances and manners of the rivaux. ous brands.

Not similar

"For one, the individual markings appearing on Lewis Strong jeans are not confusingly similar to Levi's trademarks and are not likely to cause confusion or deception in the buying public as to make them believe that said jeans belong to Levi Strauss and Co.," the court said in its April 30 decision.

Wrong venue

"For another, the respondents did not fraudulently intend to pass off its products as Levi's jeans since the trade name 'Lewis Strong Co.' is prominently and visibly printed on several parts of the leather patch," it said.

The appellate court said that, in the final analysis, the petition of Levi Strauss & Co. and its Philippine partner should have been dismissed outright because of the wrong venue for redress they took.

The court said the petition for review filed by Levi's makers was not allowed under the rules of court since the Department of Justice was not a quasi-judicial body.

It said the DOJ's decision could only be questioned if it was issued with grave abuse of discretion.

No grave abuse

The court wrote, "Before dismissed the arguments presented by Levi's to dispel the notion that the case was being dismissed on technicalities.

It said there was no grave abuse of discretion on the DOJ's part when it denied the motion for reconsideration of the dismissal of the complaint against Lewis Strong.

Levi's filed the infringement complaint against Lim following a raid of his Quezon City of. fice.

Melinda Rojas, former regional security manager of Levi Strauss & Co., said in his complaint that Lim had infringed on the trademarks and registered trademarks of Levi's.

No request

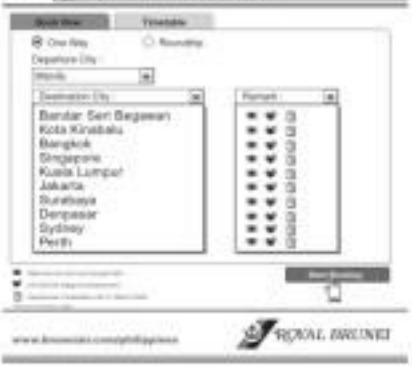
Lim, for his part, contended that the Bureau of Trademarks and Technology Transfer had approved the registration of the trademark Lewis Strong because the latter was not similar to Levi's trademarks. He added that he did not copy any of Levi's trademarks.

The investigating prosecutor recommended the dismissal of Levi's complaint in March 1998 for insufficient evidence.

Petition filed

Levi's filed a petition for review, which was denied by the Court of Appeals in June 1998. Then Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas upheld the dismissal in August 1998.

Levi Strauss & Co., is a United States-based corporation engaged in the manufacture of clothes internationally. It has used the trademarks Levi's Strauss & Co. since 1853 and the Levi's trademarks since 1873.



2 agencies pass the buck on liquids ban on planes

By Tarra Quismundo

THE OFFICE FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY (OTS) needs a detailed implementing plan drafted by aviation authorities before it can downgrade the ban on liquids, aerosols and gels from carry-on luggage at Philippine airports.

OTS head executive assistant Gus Tenderilla said the office would require a detailed plan from enforcing agencies, including the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) and airlines, before it could grant Miaa's request to relax the ban and allow regulated amounts of the substances on board passenger cabins.

"The Miaa and airlines should complete a plan on how to implement and we will review [the security regulation]. This is to make sure that the amendment on the security plan will be implemented well, because it entails a more screening procedure," Tenderilla told the Inquirer.

But airport security chief retired Gen. Angel Atienza said the Miaa had been ready with such a plan and that all the agency needed was OTS go-signal for its implementation.

"That's no longer necessary. All they have to do is issue [an order] for the downgrading. We are ready with the procedure, and the general manager will then issue an order to all airport security officers about the implementation of the ICAO regulation," Atienza said.

The Miaa has been pushing for the Philippines' compliance with the revised regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which lifted the total ban on liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) from carry-on luggage and allowed 100 ml or less of these substances to be brought inside passenger cabins.

The proposal has been pending before the OTS, the agency under the Department of Transportation and Communication which has the sole authority to approve or reject new or revised security regulations in the country's ports.

Philippine airports currently limit carriage of all LAGs of any amount in carry-on luggage, while airports in other destinations, the United Kingdom, the United States, Europe and Australia have adopted the ICAO's downgraded regulations.

The ICAO banned LAGs from airplane cabins worldwide in August last year in the light of a foiled terror attack involving liquid bombs in the UK. Following a reassessment of the global security situation, the ICAO then recommended that regulated amounts of LAGs could be allowed in carry-on bags.

"There should be a comprehensive plan that fits Miaa and airlines should review it. It should detail who are responsible for the implementation, the time line, budget, the need for training for the new screening procedure ... It's the whole gamut of procedure," Tenderilla said.

Air Force working to foil kite string

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ENGINEERS hope to develop a mechanism to protect helicopters from kite string.

A piece of string caught in the rotor blades of a helicopter could bring it down as was believed to the rarest crash of a Huey helicopter in Cebu that killed seven civilians and two airmen.

Seeking to prevent kites from again crippling its helicopters, the Air Force Research and Development Center in Lipa City has begun efforts to keep flying away from its choppers.

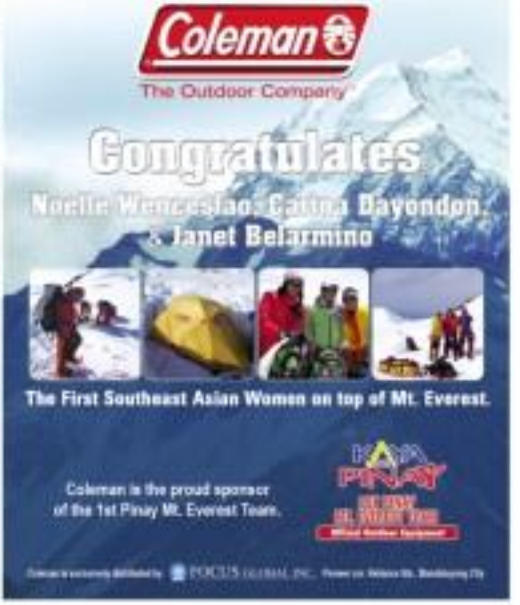
The air Force recently received 50 second-hand UH-1H helicopters, better known as the Huey from the United States.

Maj. Gen. Bernardo Matulis, PAF Air Logistics Command chief, said the center had begun brainstorming on such an upgrade on the Huey, which dates back to the Vietnam" 70s.

"It will be a bit difficult. We are looking at how we can possibly install a mechanism that will prevent string from getting entangled in the rotor blades," Matulis said.

He admitted that coming up with such a solution was a tall order. The Huey has a wire cutter located on its fuselage but it has proved ineffective in keeping out kite string.

Tarra Quismundo



Troops back in metro?

MILITARY OFFICIALS will meet today to assess whether troops should return to Metro Manila's slums.

Maj. Gen. Ileo Delfino, who heads the military's National Capital Region Command, yesterday said he was preparing a report on how the troops performed during their deployment before the elections.

However, he could not say if they would be brought back.

"It will really depend on the assessment," he told reporters in a phone interview.

More than 20,000 officers and enlisted personnel of the Philippine Armed Forces were pulled out before the May 14 polls from 19 depressed barangays in Metro Manila which they had called hotbeds of lawlessness last year.

The presence of the military in Metro Manila had been denounced by military organizations who said the soldiers were there to intimidate residents from voting for leftist party-list groups in the polls.

The military however, said that it was there to help local residents with social and public works programs. (Christine G. Avendaño)

AIRFARES | EXISTING PACKAGES
Singapore $171
Special Promo Packages
TRAVEL PLAZA INCORPORATED
SUMMER PROMO AT
La Paz
PR700
HONGKONG $65 $99 $110
BANGKOK SINGAPORE $198 $198
ARNOR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
ORIENTALIA TRAVEL & TOURS
Think Winlink.
WINLINK TRAVEL
HONEYMOON HOLIDAYS
4D TAIPEI $299
RAKSO
KOREA PACKAGE USD895 SEOUL USD630
OCEANIA AMERICA EUROPE
China Panorama
CHINA and BEYOND
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
USED
sec ndo
SKYNET TRAVEL
Buy 5 get 1 FREE
403
SAINT MARY'S
Royal Tours
MULAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
1 DAY SEEING TOUR
2 DAY SHANGHAI TOUR
3 DAY BEIJING-SHANGHAI TOUR
4 DAY BEIJING-XIAN-GUILIN
5 DAY BEIJING-XIAN-GUILIN-SHANGHAI
CUSTOMIZED PACKAGES
SPECIAL GROUP RATES
12 NEW ZEALAND TOUR
11 AUSTRALIA TOUR
8 East Coast Tour Wed and Sat
8 West Coast Tour Daily except Wed
8 Vancouver Rockies Tour
VIRGO, CARRIBEAN, COSTA CRUISES, ETC.

2% CAR/TRUCK LOAN
FREE DEMO
₱14,500
SPECIAL PROMO!!!
PANASONIC
PITBULL
₱5,787
₱113,500
WALLABY SYSTEMS
4-CHANNEL VOICE LOGGER THAT RECORDS TIL 4 PM
YOUR COPIER SOURCE
Canon
Sharp
COPYTRADE
Philippine Hotel Reservations Service
MOTEL DISCOUNTS...
Call 812-PHRS
idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
Floor Mounted
Free Installation!
BLUE BOZ WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
634-8542 / 634-1207
VIPER
Free Installation!
COPYSTAR
CLEAR POWDER COPIER
SALES
David Link
FINGERPRINT AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM
PROXIMITY SMART CARD READER
CALL NOW: 815-1046
Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P39,500
contact.tv
SALVATION & HEALING CRUSADE
with Pastors RANDY and CHERIE GILBERT, USA
MAY 24-27, 2007 / 5pm-8pm
at the RIZAL PARK
STYLISH ELEGANCE FOR THE MODERN HOME
Furniture
NETWORK
Just like being in there
Conference Speakerphone
with Recording Function
Model: KX-TS730
Panasonic
PROSERV
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
MIST FAN COOLING SYSTEMS!
Convert your existing Fan into an Evaporative Cooling System
COOL MIST INTERNATIONAL
Tel. No. 396-5234; 396-5519; 639-1657
Artline
WE'VE GOT THE RIGHT MARKER FOR THE JOB!
FREEZER ONE MARKER
GARDEN MARKER
BIG ONE WHITEBOARD MARKER
POSTER MARKER
SUPERFINE MARKER
OVERHEAD PROJECTOR MARKER
WE BUY OLD ROLEX WATCHES
ANY MODEL - ANY CONDITION / WORKING OR NON-WORKING ACCEPTED
BY INTERNATIONAL COLLECTOR
CONTACT: MR. MARSEBI
CELLPHONE: 0915-3487744
GARAGE EQUIPMENTS
TWO POST LIFT
FOUR POST LIFT
MOTORCYCLE LIFT
WHEEL BALANCER
INNER AND OUTER TUBE VULCANIZER
TIRE INFLATOR
TIRE CHANGER
TURNABLE VULCANIZER
TIRE INFLATOR W/ STAND
VICTOR HARDWARE
INCA
ABOVE / UNDERGROUND HORIZONTAL STORAGE TANKS
INCA

Batangas begins program to plant millions of trees

By Marion Alexander Latoza
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Environment and Natural Resources will raise at least 300,000 tree seedlings in Batangas this year to be planted in forests and mountain ranges. The agency believes this will help stem soil pollution and improve the air quality in the province.

The tree seedlings form part of the 20-million seed target seedlings per year under the DENR's Green Philippines Program.

DENR studies show that while the country has 16 million hectares of forest land, only 7 million hectares or 23 percent of forests remain today.

Since March, 62 employees in two DENR offices in Batangas—the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) Batangas City—have started collecting seedlings of various tree species for the project.

Nursery

A one-hectare vacant lot at Fernando Air Base (FAB) in Lipa City has been selected for the nursery.

Ariel Reyeres, forest ranger of Cenro Batangas City, said that as of May 9, DENR employees had raised a total 11,000 seedlings in the FAB nursery, which are expected to be ready for large-scale planting in June or July.

They have raised at least nine tree species: tpil-tpil, narra, ipilsupling, fire tree, akasya, nangka, sabalbera, golden shower and tabebuia.

The DENR employees told the area to groups daily doing tasks such as re-potting, seed sowing and watering.

Among the DENR's 300-ha target tree-planting sites are the timberlands of San Jose and Nasugbu in Batangas, Mt. Makiling in Los Baños and Sierra Madre in Real, Infanta and Gen. Nakar, Quezon.

According to Reyeres, trees are important because they hold soil and water when it rains, preventing landslides and flash floods. When planted along river banks, they prevent soil erosion and floods.

Environment problems

Mildred Cuyeko, DENR information officer, told the Inquirer that planting trees would solve the problems of global warming, ozone layer depletion, worsening air quality, soil fruitfulness, poverty and other environment and socioeconomic problems.

To complete the target of planting 300,000 seedlings in Batangas, Cenro-Calaca has established its own nursery and will put up 15 more nurseries in western Batangas, in partnership with the private and public sectors.

Cenro-Calaca supervises the province's five district consisting of Taal, Lemery, Calaca, Balayan, Lian, Calatagan, Tuy and Nasugbu towns.

GONE FISHING
These men have got it right—the sun, the sea and a few kilos to a weekend morning in the reclamation area off Manila Bay—away from the noise, the violence, the shouting, carping and whining of the election season.

Mining investments seen to rise this year

By TJ Burgonio

REYES

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes sees brighter prospects for the mining industry this year with investments projected to reach $549 million.

Reyes said the expansion of the $[illegible] facility in Coral Bay in Palawan would bring in a whopping $151 million, the continuing rehabilitation of the Caraballo copper project in Cabo would bring in $97 million, and a gold project in Masbate, $[illegible] million.

Another $23 million investment was expected from the construction of the base metal plant of TVI in Zamboanga del Norte and $21 million from the construction and development of the Odiplin copper-gold project in Nueva Vizcaya, he said.

Advance in stage

Since the mining industry was revitalized in January 2004, Reyes said that a total of $6944 million in investments had been generated. Those investments are expected to rise further between now and 2010 as ongoing projects "advance in stage."

"As the projects advance in their development, additional direct employment is created in the areas where the projects are located. This augurs well for the government's employment and poverty reduction program," Reyes said.

Some 3,000 new jobs are expected to be generated this year, on top of the 6,500 jobs created since 2004, Reyes said.

Reyes said that of the priority projects maintained, the value of metallic and non-metallic minerals would grow to $1.285 billion this year, up from $1.582 billion in 2006, while mining's share to total exports would rise to 9 percent this year.

Mining country

"These levels, to the DENR's belief, are reflective of the country's mineral wealth and will elevate the Philippines back "mining country" he said.

In 2006, the mining industry's gross production was valued at $[illegible] billion. Total exports of mineral and mineral products amounted to $[illegible] billion, while taxes, royalties and fees from mining reached P3.1 billion. Employment from mining rose to 141,000.

The Philippines has 38 medium to large-scale mines, including the controversial polymetallic mine in Rapu-Rapu inked in 2006 that was allowed to resume operations in February [illegible] lowing months of suspension due to a mine tailing spill [illegible].

On top of those, there are 23 projects in advanced stage and 41 others in a stage of exploration, according to the DENR.

Reyes admitted that increasing reforms in the industry was "never easy" since there would always be two groups who would "agree or disagree" on them.

He said he expects to continue to tangle with nongovernment organizations over the adverse effects of the government policy to revitalize the industry, but said the best option was to engage them.

Right decision

Reyes had come under criticism over his decision to lift the suspension on the operation of Lafayette mine [illegible] Rapu-Rapu island.

"While not differently to different sectors, the DENR believes that it made the right decision in Rapu Rapu," he said.

In view of the incidents that had ruined the image of the industry, Reyes said he supported the foreign mining investors to employ the "best practices" and comply with Philippine laws and standards when they operate here.

It was imperative, he stressed, for mining companies to build "long-lasting relationships" with the communities and local government units, and schools there on the risks and impacts of their projects.

"It's effort to engage with the stakeholders should be anchored on issues by and considerations, not just for mere compliance with regulations or lip service," he said. "In the bottomline, the mining operation must contribute to real community development not just provide side-outs to communities."

Canon
MORE printouts, MORE memories, MORE life. Make it PIXMA.
iP1300
Php 1,895
iP1700
Php 2,495
PRINT MORE WIN MORE
PRINT YOUR WAY TO VIBRANT PHUKET
Available at all leading IT stores. Call 02-884-9000 for the dealer nearest you.

NGO seeks probe of RP-China biofuel pacts

By TJ Burgonio

A NONGOVERNMENT ORGANization is seeking an inquiry into the investment agreements that the Philippines and China recently forged, particularly those involving biofuel production which were signed by newly registered local companies.

Filipino and Chinese officials signed a raft of 19 agreements involving investments estimated at $4.9 billion, or P240.1 billion, during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's state visit to the Philippines on Jan. 11 and 16.

The agreements were aimed at broadening agriculture and fisheries cooperation between the two countries.

Among those were memorandums of agreement between Philippine and Chinese companies to develop biofuel plants.

Dummies

The local companies are SB Integrated Biofuels Co., Pedernal Bioenergy Development Corp., Negros Southern Integrated Biofuels Co., One Cagayan Resource Development Inc., Philippine Marine Technology Group Inc. and Philippine-China Fisheries Corporation Inc.

But a check with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that at least six of the companies were not registered, or if they were, were newly registered.

"Their Congress opens. Our lawmakers should investigate this and get to the bottom of the mess," Jerve Quiambao of Philippine Ecumenical Action for Peoples Empowerment (Peace Foundation Inc.) said in a statement.

"They could be mere dummies."

Quiambao said the House of Representatives and the Senate should look into how the companies were able to sign the contracts, and who in the government facilitated them.

Congress will open on June 4.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said he would welcome any inquiry into the agreements and would appear at the hearings.

Based on SEC records, SB Integrated Biofuels Co., Negros Southern Integrated Biofuels Co. and Philippine Marine Technology Group were not on the list of registered companies as of March this year, Peace said.

On the other hand, Philippine-China Fisheries Corporation registered with the SEC on Jan. 16 this year, the day the agreements were signed, according to Peace.

Newly registered

Pedernal Bioenergy Development Corp. was registered only on Dec. 4, 2006, and One Cagayan Resource Development on July 6, 2006.

Integrated Biofuels Co. and Negros Southern signed separate agreements with Nanning Sugar Kai Industry Group Co. Ltd. for the manufacture of bioethanol, according to copies of the agreements obtained by Peace.

Fujiwara Bioenergy signed an agreement with China CAMC Co. Ltd. for the establishment of a biodiesel plant in the country, while One Cagayan inked a joint venture agreement with Nanning Yonglai Industry Group.

Philippine Marine Technology entered into a joint venture agreement on fishery with Huacheng Enviro Co. Ltd., while Philippine-China Fisheries Cooperation forged a deal with Baozhun Fishery Co. Ltd. on the breeding of grouper and other species.

Yap said the Department of Agriculture recently witnessed the signing of the agreements.

A broad alliance of agrarian reform and peasant advocates, including Peace, had also raised concerns over three major RP-China agreements that open up 1.3 million hectares of land to agribusiness.

The agreements involve the development of 1 million ha of land for hybrid corn, hybrid rice and hybrid sorghum farming, another 200,000 ha for agri-tourism and organic farming, and another 40,000 ha for sugarcane and cassava production.

Skills-based migration to US will hurt Asians

WASHINGTON—ASIAN NURSE visitors will be challenged under a sweeping US immigration reform plan that would grant visas based on skills more than on family connections in the United States.

While the plan would offer a path to citizenship for 12 million undocumented immigrants, it will crumble the bedrock underlying four decades of US immigration policy by drastically suspension to Asian-American family reunification.

Congress is to consider this week reforms such as ending the issuance of US permanent resident cards to siblings and adult children of US citizens and holders of "green cards."

The new system calls for most green cards to be given based on a merit system that would favor applicants who speak English, have high academic and specific job skills.

Inconsistent with values

Tinging off family reunification for employment-based visas is seen as inconsistent with US values and with desires expressed by family reunion, Asian experts say.

"In an era of promoting family values, proposals to eliminate family immigration categories seem strikingly out of step," said Dill Ong Ning, a professor of Asian American studies at the University of California, Davis.

"What's the message? Brothers and sisters are not important? Once children reach a certain age, they need not bond with parents or aren't maintaining contact or an investment makes no economic sense," Ong told a recent Congressional hearing.

Immigration has become a divisive issue in the US, underlining the limits of executive policy from family to skills is seen as a last-ditch bid to woo some conservatives opposed to President George W. Bush's legalization plans for 12 million undocumented immigrants in the country.

The new reform proposal "would undermine this nation's long tradition of family-based immigration," wrote Japanese-American lawmaker Mike Honda, who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Undocumented

The Democratic lawmaker said a move based immigration system would fail to adequately account for the economic contributions made by family members, who rely on one another to start and run businesses, purchase homes and send children to college.

"They also provide care for young children, the sick and elderly, he said.

Hondu believes about 1.3 million of the 1.6 million Asians in the United States are undocumented, including some who were victims of family immigration laws.

Another 1.3 million Asians are in the backlog of applications for permanent residency status or citizenship, advocacy groups say.

Waiting lines to receive green cards under the various family categories extend more than a decade for relatives from China and India, and to long as two decades and more from the Philippines.

Under the proposed reforms, the cut-off date for green card applications on the basis of family ties was March 2005.

Applications made after that date would be rejected, dealing a blow to those who had played by the rules and are now being told it is not good enough," lamented a lawyer for an Asian advocacy group.

Limited number of visas

While the planned reforms would not eliminate the ability of US citizens and permanent residents to sponsor their spouses and minor children, it does cut "on adversary and immediate cuts" on the ability of citizens and legal residents to bring in their parents, said Ms Anne Smedinghoff, Justice Center, a national civil rights organization.

An estimated 80,000 visas per year will be cut to 40,000, it said.

The proposal would "substantially the ability of millions of American citizens to reunite with their adult children and siblings and will undermine the most important independent to creating healthy economies," said Gen Pujioka, program director for the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco.

"Families are the source of our social, cultural and economic vitality. The proposal makes it more difficult for talented and hardworking immigrants to put roots in the United States," he said.

Asians now comprise 5 percent of the US population and claim 5.3 percent 2005-06 growth/brain gain, according to 3.4 percent growth, the highest of any race group. AFP

People's Choice

SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999

SUPER BRAND 2007 PLATINUM

PILOT
Refillable Ball Point Stick Pens

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
371 Q. Paredes St. Binondo, Manila
PO: 8631167 to 74 Fax: 2426871
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

ISSN 0116-2442 INQUIRER VOL. XXVI, NO.

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text us your feedback: inquirer tag <space> msg <space> message to 2327 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Opposite of everything

EDITORIAL

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE MOST DRAMATIC race of the 2007 mid-term elections was the three-way fight for governor of the rare-rich Central Luzon province of Pampanga. Fr. Ed Panlilio edged Lilia Pineda by only 1,147 votes—not even one-fifth of one percent of the total number of votes cast for governor. Years from now, his victory and, much more important, his grand adventure of a campaign, will continue to be studied again and again, for what every political lessons it may yield.

There were, of course, other dramatic contests, involving higher profile candidates. In General Santos City, the most popular Filipino alive challenged one of the young leaders of the opposition. But Manny Pacquiao, the world's best fighter, pound for pound, was outclassed by Darlene Antonino-Custodio, a dynast with both a track record of public service and a political machine.

In Batangas, the contest for governor was made for the movies, with the lead role played, fittingly enough, by a real movie star. The victory of three-term Lipa mayor Vilma Santos had everything: early setbacks, a long record of achievement and, in the person of alleged jueteng lord and incumbent governor Armando Sanchez, even a recognizable villain.

In Naga City, the villains were a motley crowd, but in the end the five-term mayor, Jesse Robredo, a Magsaysay awardee for government service, won a sixth term by a landslide, despite the best efforts of his opposition. Gov. Mark Lapid, the son of the movie actor and first-term senator Lito Lapid, was running for reelection with the help of the dominant Lakas party. Provincial Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, the wife of suspected jueteng lord Bong Pineda, was aiming for higher office with the help of the President's once and future party, Kampi.

It was a choice between what some members of the media took to calling the jueteng queen (because of her husband's largesse, Pineda is a major influence in Pampanga and regional politics) and the quarry prince (the king being Senator Lapid, alleged to have made a private fortune in public quarrying fees when he was still provincial governor).

Enter the man known to Pampanga as "Among Ed," Catholic priest Ed Panlilio was a reluctant candidate; indeed, he was heavily involved in a third-party search for an alternative candidate for governor. None of the more prominent Kapampangan citizens asked to run could reply in the affirmative, however. This was just as well; we strongly doubt that any of the high-profile Kapampangans approached would have done as well as Panlilio, contrary to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz's easy assumption. Our skepticism does not signify a lack of trust in the possible alternatives; it is not a reflection on their qualifications or competencies either. Instead, it is based on our reading of the political dynamics in Pampanga.

The voters of Pampanga needed a clear moral alternative. Instead of a professional politician, they needed a political amateur. Instead of a candidate for whom political office would be a career reward, they needed a candidate for whom even the mere act of running for office would already involve a major sacrifice—in Panlilio's case, his essential identity as a priest. Instead of a candidate with access to millions of pesos, they needed a candidate without any funds—indeed, in Panlilio's case, without any political organization or campaign network to speak of. Not least, the voters of Pampanga needed someone who was clearly not beholden to moral inertia—whether it be the continuing patronage of the illegal numbers game or the tradition of entitlement that had the provincial capitol in its grip.

They needed the complete opposite of the politics of opportunity that both Pineda and Lapid had come to symbolize. With Among Ed, that is exactly what the Kapampangans got.

Publisher **Isaac Rivera**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimena Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Joaquin S. Bernas**
Associate Editor **Ninotchka C. Rosca**
Associate Editor for Broadcasting **Ricardo A. Garcia** and
News Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, News Desk Unit **Nina R. Patawaran**
Special Projects Editor **Juan C. Gatbonton Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Veronica Domingo**
Chief Photographer **Raul G. Gangcuangco**
Art & Design Director **Lisa C. G. Villamor**

Board Chairman **Hiram C. Pineda**
President **Ma. Isabel Pineda Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **Diego C. Vallejo**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Isaac R. Belmonte**
Vice President for Finance **Felix R. Dalisay**
Vice President for Circulation **Lilian Garcia B. Yap**

Inquirer Advertising Office: **inquirer.com.ph/ads**
Telefax: 896-6214, 896-6215, 896-6216, 896-6217, 896-6218

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied or used without the express written permission of the publisher. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Another power rate increase coming up

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE IT OR NOT, MERALCO'S WILL ALWAYS be an important part of Philippine electric industry. It was there when the dead zone from dawn to midnight was the only time there was electricity and the lines were wired. And it was there when Gerry Roxas ordered his cloth-face Gurkas to wrestle his illegal connections from the tangled mess of wires in Magallanes, where administrative assistant Magallanes arrested a 12-footer against the opposition, a feat that's even harder to achieve than returning to the town.

Magallanes is not a small town; it is a whole province with around 300,000 voters. Achieving a 12-0 score in one whole province is what the Supreme Court would call a "matter of impossibility." What's more, the opposition there is Chavit Singson, someone Dole Ilocos has referred to as the sun-tan-resistant king of the Philippines, way far from Magsaysay-ites. What is even more strange, Magsaysay is a Muslim province, but Chavit Singson, the only Muslim candidate in the State many cities, trounced him in the province's Magis 12.

To fill those magisterial pickup-ons, the citizens of Manuel Chan Peninsula Muslim-ites, "Hiner proof." To anybody else but the Canadian commissioners, this time observers as investigators—to make sure that cheating has not once again entered the split bond in Mindanao. The Catholic church and its parishioners should be sure as investigators. It is in its duty to look into it and gather proof. That is the best thing it should do to restore its credibility.

* * *

But here is more bad news: Electricity rates in Metro Manila will increase again soon. The reason is the high prices being **traded at the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).**

Because of the low availability of power plants running at cheaper fuel such as coal and geothermal energy, power rates at the WESM during the April 30-May cycle soared **by P2 per kWh, to P8 per kWh from P5.9836 per kWh in March.**

The impact of the drastic rise in the WESM prices on the four million Meralco customers was calculated to be at 50 centavos per kWh, to be imposed as a component of its generation charge.

Many chose to complain every day, the pass-on **of this increase will be delivered until such time that the Energy Regulatory Commission approves the Meralco application.** But just the same, it will eventually shock consumers when their monthly electricity bills.

This is the third unusual price increase since the electricity spot market opened last year. And we are again witnessing the evil hand of the state in the Sarangani Energy Corp.

Enter did Dapecor do it? Recently, Napocor announced that it had supply shortage by importing a small supply of high-priced coal so that power plants can operate only as a contingency. The fear is it will run down its cheaper power supply but this much is not yet expected to happen.

Greed is the only reason why some Napocor officials are reducing their investments. Why? Because the government wants to sell Napocor so he privatized, after all they are benefiting from fuel conversions and from supply and management contracts, so they are creating a false power crisis.

It is high time for the President to take drastic action to prevent the anticipated increases in power rates because of the collusion among industry players, notably Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM). She should dismantle the Napocor mafia.

* * *

Before the elections, the Bicol region was so invested by interventions (remember, then Sen. Jinkee Arroyo shipped a campaign aid to the area with "Problem Magsaysay Arroyo: the problem. Come who-ever-where at that money. Ng) GMA had told Napocor chief Cyril del Callar to tie them but during the meeting, Del Callar told her "Senator Jinkee would." Senator Arroyo said, "So the President had to relay her order to another Napocor official so he he probably remembered."

Del Callar is the only official in government who would not take the President to a meeting called to discuss a problem where his "superior" is needed.

Arroyo had assembled officials of Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) over the interventions in Bicol which have at least two partisan power plants. The two government corporations claimed the power outages were due to the pre-to-be repaired steel towers during the Typhoon Milenyo storm, which were damaged by explosives "Milenyo" and "Reming" last year.

But it has been more than six months since the explosions hit the area and the power firms should have been able to repair them by now, Inquirer said.

"Why did Transco not repair them immediately after the explosion?" he asked.

The senator has asked the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) to summon officials of Napocor and Transco for questioning on the Bicol power outages. The panel is co-headed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Rep. Algen Bandoles.

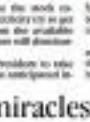
He pointed out that executives of the two firms had given their assurances that there would be no power interruptions, that there was no sense to worry because we had "normal power."

"They said we are getting independent power producers but power rates are do-not-see. So there is excess power. So why are there brownouts?" he speculated.

Mother of miracles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



I TOO HID MY DOUBTS, LIKE THOMAS. Though in my case I had ample reason for it, which was what my friends who had been campaigning assiduously for Eddie Panlilio had been telling me. As election day neared and it was time to vote, they said they were afraid of a repeat of things.

One was vote buying or extensive cheating. They could count only on the cash in envelopes. Or on the ballot boxes or the gambling funds and funds of monies in Pampanga to do so. They repeatedly warned the voters of Pampanga and the nation at large, through the media, about that possibility and begged them to be vigilant. They warned that given that there is no bonded way to stop cheating in this country, especially in Cadiz bailiwick, even the most sober among them turned to prayer. There are no others in the municipality, and it would have taken the Friends found themselves in shortly before last Monday, listening to the wind whistling in the night, awaiting the enemy assault at dawn.

They said that the spheres might prove to be a middle-class phenomenon. The mass might be content to go their merry way accepting badly needed donations to their desperate cause, however those donations came free and for heaven, and as he handed into the Lapid and Pineda corrupt. This was not all, Pampanga is a province that has been devastated several times over, not least by a violent volcanic eruption and an even more violent aftermath in the form of lahar, lethal lava flows devastated by being saturated with rainwater in labuluan. They should not be there, but they have been a devastation to the nonetheless to Pampanga. Indeed, we friends worried that the folk there might think Lapid and Pineda might be SOBs but they were their SOBs. The ones had a pipeline to Malacañang, a source of loans and beneficiaries, even Fernos advertised that dubbed.

But, to said behold, the folk of Pampanga, Cadiz, made clear and poor of their fear, and the result was a stunning, unanimous and exciting victory for Panlilio. Of course, he won by what happened to entertainers in the wake of King's victories. I wouldn't put it past many prizes to contemplate an alternative or panel, let anyone as politicians, if only to be able to say early various contenders apart from parties. But because Cadiz is made, such is disappointment, especially the bishops who justified GMA being there by saying even your clients anyway.

The results have important considerations in Can this example be replicated elsewhere?

Yes, but only—and I can never sufficiently belabor this point—if the voters at large are require a sacrifice of Good vs. Evil. That is what happened in Pampanga. It is what has been. Good vs. Evil. That is what the rest Ed. are have been. Good vs. Evil. Our problem so, that isn't just a political one, it's a moral one. But unlike Pampanga, the rest of the nation hasn't been offered a stark, earth-shaking, larger-than-life choice between Good and Evil, it has only been offered a choice between Evil and Lesser Evil. You cannot drive people out in to the streets with that kind of choice. You cannot get them to vote against government of nations, as we've decided to choose.

What that means in practical terms is that it's time the choice stopped being between Gloria or Erap, as many pundits. It's time a stop being between Gloria or Erap, as many pundits. It's time a stop being between Gloria or Erap, as many pundits. That is the opposite of SOBs—the way Cory was the opposite of Marcos and the people pushing for impeachment were the opposite of Erap. The way Panlilio is the opposite of Lapid and Pineda. That is the only way to get rid of SOBs, which what happened in Pampanga can happen elsewhere.

Now more than ever, I stand but by my belief that the next three years will be some of the most turbulent in our country's history. Things will get worse before they get better. But in Pampanga alone, or indeed as the landmarks of People Power in this country shows, Filipinos somehow manage to discover their best selves during their lowest moments.

Insecurity is the mother of invention. Despair exists is the mother of miracles.

Surviving the bend in the road

"If the Peso Will Continue to Ride Against the dollar, the economic outlook will continue to look good, the country will survive—regardless of who gets elected and even if the governments in the politicians are corrupt." That was one of the most depressing comments I heard before the elections.

The good news is it may be true. We will survive. The worst mind if it means that our government, or some political practice we do, is already too functioning here and there—a "rich cousin" like a town with some life-threatening blocked valves. Whatever happened to Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's dream of a "strong republic"?

We have been known to take care of ourselves through 400 years in the country, 40 years in the Universal," three years of Japanese occupation, 20 years under the Marcos dictatorship, with upon-and-common of crookedness. Those episodes did not destroy us. We survived and even thrived after those tried. The point is, before their beating points, we managed to live on. Filipino business for several are among the wonders in the world.

Business is known to survive any storm by its ability to adapt. Since 1997, the Philippine economy has withstood a number of crises. Some of them were unavoidable; others were man-made. Yet we survived. We survived the Asian financial crisis, the Estrada impeachment trial, the Arroyo-Poe crisis, the Oakwood mutiny, the Angelo de la Cruz hostage crisis, the Hello Garci scandal, the Venice Roxas-Mercado-Gonzalez fiasco, the Angelo Reyes suicide, the Fertilizer fund scandal, the Jocjoc Bolante fugitive saga, the Jueteng exposé, the Chavit Singson-Erap Estrada trial, the Ampatuan massacre, the Lozada kidnapping, the Senate impeachment trial, the Garci return, the Hyatt 10 resignations, the Trillanes siege, the Lozada return

Pacman's fall: writing on wall

LETTERS

DARLENE MAGNOLIA ANTONIO-CUSTODIO

whenever people's rights are trampled upon, laws are mocked, democratic institutions fail prey to victimizations and the very sacred fabric of democracy is lambasted and shattered, amounting to the whims and caprices of the very people who are sworn to defend and preserve it.

Of course, Pacquiao's most spring was just from his friendship with GMA and her equally callous dysfunctionals. The whole world saw how Pacquiao fumbled and stumbled in the political arena. Both friends and foes saw him wasting too much time whom side the devil sat foot and talked.

However, had Pacquiao opted to go with the good guys, things might have been different. Heroes may be born in one lowly rings the heroes are also made in the halls of Congress. The average Filipino family sees the differences such pro-Independencia whose interests are won and lost.

But when comes more to hear the people of General Santos City and the first congressional district of South Cotabato fulfilled their destiny by running on the wall campaign which GMA must cruel and unprincipled. GMA, too, has a destiny to fulfill before she herself gets knocked off the pedestal of sand on which she thinks she rules supreme over a nation of idiots.

—RUBEN CARDOL MENDIOLA,
El Lapoo St., General Santos City

Questionable ruling on SMC shares

THE IS IN REACTION TO THE MARS article "Intelligentsiaan lets Bandung sell imported PAR SMC shares." (Inquirer, 5/22/07)

The Intelligentsiaan ruling is not only questionable, it does the investor fumbles—who earned the bandits of the case over its contract, the bands of which were used to buy the contested SMC shares...an injustice.

The public is very much smarter than 47 percent of SMC shares were acquired using cross boys or public funds. The ownership of Ramon SMC shares is still being contested before Ramon Cojuangco (whom 36 percent of those, had not, even before the courts ruled on the ownership issue, been considered the lawful owner of the shares) by the government. Until that case is decided, the government is not the owner of the shares, and cannot sell them.

In answering the ALFR case, Cojuangco said SMC shares no collateral. ALFR is a registered entity. And it was able to raise money from the Intelligentsiaan following Cojuangco to put off his loans without using his own money. In effect, privatization would be using the tax loans, from Intelligentsiaan for Cojuangco to save my indebtedness for the government and the investor farmers.

"The long grapple is over at long months."

The coming of the ruling it also surprise; it was issued just before May 14, when public attention was focused on the elections, thus escaping public scrutiny. And that seems to be the case. Because, so far, only the office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and counsel farmers' organizations are raising a howl against it.

Their stand, that the Intelligentsiaan ruling might also have something to do with malacañang's plan to enter into a compromise agreement with Cojuangco. After the demise of PCGG Commissioner Haydee Yorac, who vigorously pursued the cases against Cojuangco, the Arroyo administration has practically resumed course.

Instead of ruling on the petition of Cojuangco, the Intelligentsiaan should have ruled on the writs of execution filed in pursuance to all earlier rulings on the ownership of the 18.2% and the 27 percent SMC shares, which have been declared to be owned by the government and held in trust for the small investor farmers. By acting on the petition of Cojuangco, the Intelligentsiaan has lifted much needed funds for the rehabilitation and development of the riverine industry, one of the major export earners.

We are hoping that the DOJ will immediately file an opposition on his questionable Intelligentsiaan ruling.

—CHEL B. DIOKNO,
executive director, Center Isla Inc.,
cbmvmaka@yahoo.com

Election day turned into 'Litterbugs Day' by candidates

LITTERING WAS THE MOST visible antagonism the environmentalists on election day. Campaign leaflets were being scattered everywhere (in the guise of being distributed) with total abandon, it was definitely a busy day for litterbugs.

The practice must be stopped. It simply does not reflect at all our yearning for clean elections.

Political parties, candidates and their supporters should take responsibility for any litter coming from their campaigns. Some gun-fashion-case cost of trousers and wheelie bins should be provided to collect campaign litter so that it will not end up in the streets. They must be used sparingly and judiciously and volunteers tasked to distribute them should be instructed to make sure they are not thrown above roundabouts.

To lessen the demand for campaign holidays and thus minimize littering on election day, why don't we, voters, prepare our own list of candidates before going to the voting precincts?

We should carefully put together our list of candidates, keeping in mind the need to select those genuinely committed to serving the needs of our communities, including preserving our environment.

Putting up a convenient system for the management of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste right at polling places will also help in minimizing their live elections.

—ELENA LEAÑO,
coordinator, Kontrabando Coalition,
ecowatercoalition@yahoo.com

沐浴农科

SHUNG NONGKE

Manufactured by:

SHANGDONG CHANGLIN AGRICULTURE MACHINERY GROUP

112 Changlin West Street, Lishu County, Shangdong, China

Exclusively distributed by:

SUPER TRADE ENTERPRISES

927 EDSA Philam Quezon City, 1104

Tel no.: (02)928 - 9088 Fax no.: (02)927- 3275

Email address: supertrade1982@yahoo.com

An awakening inspired by Helen Quach

IN REFERENCE TO CEBU STUDENTS APRIL 26 column, I played with symphony conductor Helen Quach and the Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO) 30-odd years ago. As a student, I sat on the 12-signer of the cello for HMS recitals and found out that all things are not what they seem at small fronts. My choice to join the MSO was a great something. Some schools only a portion of great spiritual and musical understanding one. Unfortunately I was not in Manila to experience last April's concerts. I would have been willing to sit in for lunch breaks and play for her.

I finally caught up with Helen in Sydney while on tour with her orchestra, The Australian Philharmonic Orchestra, last May 1. Due to commitments to my family, I could not travel and am misled up talking to them many hours about everything under the sun. Energy and stamina radiated from her. I was so much here after my first concern the night before and she dragged me out of bed, so to speak, and WOKE me up to the world. I was stunned to hear Helen's apply stitch, at that time of day, was for me complement for me. But as our conversation went deeper and deeper, I began to wake up as finally we when she finally is made of.

There were things that I would have given up had I gone through what she had. So, we believe, she has the fighting spirit of a bull terrier. We talked like "soulmates talk" and it was fun, we shared our struggles and strengths and how we go about finding the right medication to bring our something from nothing. Then we talked about dogs, cats, racehorses, then the world. Time stopped. Hard to find her good. Then we had a meeting with my principal players.

After 30 years, that was the only time I found out who Helen Quach really was. I was inspired to do another concert. I find because the new complement—concerto different senses—her mind you, she has shown me something different to what seems to be somewhat go musical performances.

Yours Soul

—JULIAN QUIRI,
resident conductor/conductor,
Australian Philharmonic Orchestra, and
professor/lecturer, Monash and
Melbourne Universities

SC also to blame for extrajudicial killings

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY VIEWS on Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno's unanimous blaming the AU man on an outright for the human rights violations in the Philippines. (Inquirer, 5/22/07)

The most senior official of the Philippine justice system made those foolish and disinterested statements to escape culpability in the violation of human rights, particularly the spate of extrajudicial killings, committed in the country.

More than the war on terror, the slow and faulty dispensation of justice in the country and the Supreme Court's bias against the poor and underprivileged have the people with no option but to take extralegal end-runs to secure justice for themselves. Extrajudicial killings provide for some cases filed against the suspects remain unresolved and the murderers stay unpunished.

I can sympathize with the relatives of the victims of the EJK: 6,000 mass killings in desperate times, after the Supreme Court granted unspecified "protection" to the unconscious leader Enrile or Gloria, despite the fact that the crime [illegible] he is accused of is unbailable. Where do we go to for recourse if our own justice system fails us?

The war against terror serves no provides to civilians—victims of his country with a sense of security and peace of mind. Professor thinks that the Chief Justice should also urge war against criminals so that he can give us a sense of justice.

—RAZZEL A. BASTIDON JR.,
marabastgen@yahoo.com

CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY

Grace Life Care International, U.S.A. President, Mr. Isidro Rodriguez (standing center) met with the newly hired teachers for school year 2007-2008. The teachers were personally hired by US employees from Mechlenburg, Mannasas, Prince Edward, Roanoke of Virginia and Duplin, Durham, Lenoir, Pitt and Wilson of North Carolina. More employees are expected to arrive anytime soon to hire more SPED, Math and Science teachers. For more inquiries, visit our office at Worldwind Corporation, POEA License 0961,R-09U186-PL, office address 11 Ruelle 111 Avenue Square Garden, United Nations Avenue cor. Jorge Bocobo Street, Manila. Tel nos. (02)6007421 (02)5194625, mobile nos. (63)2905931252 and (63)2819077263 or log on to www.graceliferecruitment.com

Across the NATION

Protests mar Comelec count results

LOCAL CANDIDATES IN SOME AREAS IN Pangasinan, Ilocos and Isabela are questioning the results of Commission on Election canvassing, leading to the filing of charges and possible delay in the proclamation of the winners.

In Pangasinan, the daughter of outsider Jose Nonoy "Bolet" Suntay won in the tightly fought congressional race in the third district.

Rachel Arenas, a candidate of the administration Lakas-CMD party, got a margin of 1,319 votes over her closest opponent, Governor Talagan Jr., son of outgoing Rep. Generoso Tulagan.

"I consider it a landslide victory, despite all the intimidation and harassment my supporters got, despite all the goons and the money," Arenas said.

But a lawyer of Gov. Tulagan, former deputy Comelec Commissioner Guillermo Guiam, said his camp had reason to seriously doubt the results of the canvassing of votes, particularly in San Carlos City.

In a statement, Atty. Guiam, Tulagan's lawyer, said the "serious doubt" arose from several incidents of "terrorism, vote-buying, poll shaving and bribery of election officers to ensure the victory of the winning candidate."

"We are considering all legal options so that the true will of the voters of the district would be respected and implemented," Lazo said.

He said Tulagan's legal team had asked the city board of canvassers to defer the canvass and crediting of the said Bolet-led bogo documents but were their talky and the final one.

Lazo said that in Malasiqui

PROVINCES A-20

STOP SMOKING!

Dräger medical
A Dräger and Siemens Company

DRAEGER MEDICAL AG & Co. Kg, Germany

Announces the partnership with

MEDICAL ONE CORPORATION

as its

OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR

of

Anaesthesia
Infinity Monitoring Systems
Perinatal Warming Therapy
Ventilators
Operating Lights
Operating Room Architectural System

CLAUS GRABOWSKY
General Manager
DRAEGER MEDICAL AG & Co. Kg, Germany

Medical One

MEDICAL ONE CORPORATION

Accepts the partnership with

DRAEGER MEDICAL AG & Co. Kg

as its

OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR

of

Anaesthesia
Infinity Monitoring Systems
Perinatal Warming Therapy
Ventilators
Operating Lights
Operating Room Architectural System

WILBUR B. CANONIGO
President & CEO
MEDICAL ONE CORPORATION

Canvassing of results in Laguna postponed

STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA—THE COMELEC provincial office suspended the canvassing of election results for the gubernatorial, vice governorial, provincial board and congressional positions pending the granting of the petition of the Comelec chair's son in-law to declare a "failure of elections" in Bifian town.

Brunono F. Pagsisi, provincial election supervisor, said he would not say when he could proceed with the canvassing as the Comelec head office had yet to decide on the petition filed by mayoral candidate Jun Bobon Varra, son-in-law of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

On Thursday, Varra filed a petition to suspend the canvassing and declare a failure of elections in Bifian because about 58 percent of the voters were allegedly disenfranchised due to "several questionable events."

Gubernatorial vice Teresita S. "Ningning" Lazaro appeared in a television interview on Saturday to open the gubernatorial race from the finger because the complaints of the petitioner involved only the Bifian officials.

As of noon of May 29, Lazaro was ahead of her opponent Edwin R.S. Ejercito by more than 20,000 votes, excluding votes from Bifian and Santa Rosa.

Both towns are the hometowns of Olivarez, being a resident of San Pedro which is part of the first district.

Olivarez also appeared on television Saturday to oppose his objection to proceed with the canvassing of the votes while the controversy in Bifian was ongoing.

Comelec records show that the two towns have a total number of registered voters of 220,846.

Olivarez said that if the Comelec declared a failure of elections in Bifian, it should include not only the results at the municipal level but also at the provincial level.

The canvassing of votes in the first district, where movie actor turned politician Dexter Romeo S. Hernandez enjoys a commanding lead, could also suffer delay.

The board of canvassers has proclaimed the following winners in the congressional race: Jesus Marc Chipeco, second district; Benito Ortiz Aragon, third district, and Edgar Mai-Lim, fourth district.

In Tanauan City, a lawsuit delayed floor during Friday night's canvass after the lawyers of Lobo (CM) mayoral candidate Al. Perlas Corpuz asked the board of canvassers to suspend for one day the opening of the remaining 11 ballot boxes.

The Comelec, however, rejected Corpuz's petition and decided to open the boxes by 6 a.m. compelling the candidate's supporters to walk out from the stadium.

Corpuz's running mate Julius Platon II said his group believed that the ballot boxes contained fake election returns.

Lawyer Cecilio Lising, head election supervisor for Lobo, did not attend the proclamation.

Tension gripped the city on Nov. 22, 2000, after the Comelec's second division nullified Corpuz's proclamation as mayor and declared Teresa Aquino winner in the 2004 elections.

The Supreme Court upheld the Comelec decision on April 29 last year. Ricardo Perez and Marlon Alexander Lalata, reporters Sun.Star Lobo

ANGRY! 1,000 supporters of Bifian mayoral candidate Marlyn Alonzo march up to the provincial hall, protesting the suspension of canvassing

From Manila to the rest of the World

College of International Hospitality Management

San Sebastian College-Recoletos
Manila Campus

QUALITY CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A GLOBAL SETTING

EXPERIENCE QUALITY AND GLOBAL EDUCATION WITHIN YOUR REACH AT

San Sebastian College-Recoletos
Cavite Campus

COURSES OFFERED

ENROLLMENT IS ONGOING FOR SY '03-'04

Enrollment guaranteed at P8,000 initial down payment

Protests mar Comelec . . .

Viewpoint A11

tours, the Bantam camp filed criminal charges against the election officer after he was caught opening two ballot boxes and allegedly inserting documents believed to be fake election returns.

Antaas denied Bantam's accusations. "We were the ones harassed and intimidated in the different towns of the district," she said.

In Bauan, former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo, who lost in his bid to regain the seat in the first congressional district, heralded the massive cheating and intimidation.

"There was massive vote buying and harassment of political leaders, although I must admit that I was saddened by the defeat," said Payumo, who lost to Ruwelina Roman, wife of outgoing Rep. Antonino Roman.

Payumo said he and other candidates in the province were planning to ask the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in Bauan because of the irregularities.

"Kung magkakaganun, sa susunod na eleksyon wala nang pagandahanan na yan. Mag-tatapat na lamang kayo ng vote-buying scheme dito sa bayan, eee dapat na ho ganun ang debate on issues in the next elections. Let us just build vote-buying stations)," Payumo said.

Batangas Bishop Socrates Villegas denounced the irregularities, saying they need to defeat goals in the province's history.

But reelected Sen. Ismaya Garcia denied all the allegations, saying the elections were "very orderly and peaceful."

Uncanvassed results

In Santiago City in Isabela, the Patch-Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the lawyers of losing mayoral candidate Armando Yan decried the proclamation of Mayor Amelita Rivera.

Fr. John Bartolome, PPCRV Santiago head, said he was not informed that Rivera's and the seven winning councilors belonging to her party were proclaimed at the city mayor administrator's office, a block away from the canvassing site on May 18.

Wilson Tuliao, acting city election officer, said the proclamation was done outside the canvassing area because Tan's supporters were unruly.

He said the board that members of the canvassing board might be harmed.

He said the board noted the objections from Tan's camp.

Bartolome said the proclamation went on with still 20 precincts left uncanvassed. Three winners from Tan's group were alleged, to not informed of the proclamation.

Elias Salitan, Tan's lawyer, said he would contest Rivera's proclamation.

In Bulacan, the proclamation of the winning governor may drag on until next week as votes from San Jose del Monte City, where a big chunk of votes would decide the contest, remain to have yet to be canvassed.

Rosario Resendiz, a Comelec official in the canvassing area, said the poll body might only proclaim the winning governor today or tomorrow as the canvassing in San Jose del Monte, which has 193,405 voters, had been delayed.

Vehicles from that city may eventually decide who among Board Members Josefito Elevados and former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan would emerge as winner.

Bulacan has at least 1.4 million voters, the biggest provincial count.

Both Members and Pagdanganan were claiming victory, citing their camps' monitoring of results. They traded accusations of engaging in fraud and other irregularities.

The provincial board of canvassers on Saturday completed the canvass of 24 of 25 towns and cities in Bulacan.

As of Friday Pagdanganan, with 197,927 votes, was leading Members, who had 226,926.

Pagdanganan, however, refused to concede to Members. "Let's just wait for the results. Anyway it is not yet finished," he told the reporters.

San Jose del Monte is considered one of the bailiwicks of Pagdanganan.

On Saturday, lawyer Carmi Pamintuan, who represents Pagdanganan in the provincial canvassing, filed a complaint against policemen and their officials who allegedly harassed his family at a resort in Calumpit town.

Pamintuan said the policemen barged into their rooms as Avel's Island Resort on Friday night. He said he was not there when the policemen arrived.

He said the policemen, who were looking for him, pulled their guns at his children and his other family members while they searched their rooms.

Canvassing suspended

In Cagayan, provincial election supervisor Michael Vaflor on Saturday ordered the suspension of the canvassing at the provincial capitol in Tuguegarao City following complaints from the camps of reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara and Tuguegarao Mayor Randolph Ting that the provincial BOC was favoring their rivals led by Rep. Manuel Mamba.

Vaflor said the order came from the Comelec's Law department.

Lorito Baligad, a lawyer from the camp of Lara and Ting, asked the Comelec to replace the board members or ask for their inhibition.

Also on Saturday, the canvassing of election returns from Tuguegarao was suspended after a group of men beat up a relative of former Mayor Delfin Ting in the canvassing area at City Hall.

Ting said one of those who beat up his cousin, Romero Cue Gulayan, was a policeman.

Police officials denied the allegations.

Members of the city board of canvassers and they would meet to decide on the issue of the canvassing venue.

Mini-winners

In Bataan, Rep. Samuel Dangtas Kahn (NPC) defeated rival Ronald Cesalon (LDP) for the lone congressional seat.

Dangtas, 75, beat Cesalon, 64, by 18,331 votes for his third term.

Dangtas said the candidates' tribal affiliation defined the trend of the voting.

La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Sangiwan became the new governor when he defeated reelectionist Gov Ronnie Ridsdale.

Sangiwan got 50,801 votes while Ridsdale garnered 46,756.

In Luna City, the Bayanan contested to dominate House Rules politics with the victory of outgoing Gov. Ferdinand Bintos to representative of the second district. He senate Michael Ross as incoming governor, and two other senators as provincial board members each.

In Ilaya City, Bacon Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's protégé, Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, was proclaimed governor on Tuesday night. He received 113,616 votes against former Board Member Elmo Balderian's 111,294.

Balderian claimed massive cheating and election fraud, especially in Savellano's hometown of Cabugao. Savellano, however, denied the charges. — Jeannie Rodilla Jr., Philippine Inquirer; Jocelyn Montemayor, Bulacan bureau chief; Gerard Cardinoza, Delmar Cariño, Cristina Arandilla, Frank Ginsaro, Villamor Visaya Jr., Melvin Gascon and Bobienelo Cubico, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Carmela Reyes and Greg Zaplacinto, Inquirer Central Luzon

Comelec suspends canvassing in Surigao Norte

BUTUAN CITY—THE COMMISSION on Elections ordered the indefinite suspension of canvassing in Surigao del Norte on Saturday amid charges of massive vote-buying, electoral fraud and violence.

Jey Jonathan Bitacua, provincial election supervisor, yesterday said the order came from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr.

Sources said Abalos had told them to hold the canvassing in absentia pending the resolution of the case filed by Gov. Lyndon Barbers of Lakas-CMD, who rode in the congressional race against Tubod Mayor Ducilbrave Bernaness of the Koalisyon ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

Barbers accused Bernaness of engaging in vote-buying, fraud and intimidation, particularly in the two contested towns of Tubod and Mainit.

Barbers also said Bernaness used his private army to "prevent, coerce and threaten voters."

Bernaness, who was leading in the provincial tally, denied the allegations.

"The Comelec through Chairman Abalos ordered the suspension of canvassing in the whole province due to allegation of fraud and vote-buying," Bitacua told the business.

But Bernaness said the suspension of the canvassing was very unusual and done without due process.

In a hastily called press conference he's contesting Bernaness said the suspension order was arbitrary and was detrimental to the voters of the province.

"This order came without hearing or notice," Bernaness said.

He said Barbers was lying when he claimed that the election were marred by irregularities.

"There was no (incident of) violence, fraud and vote-buying reported to the local election office and to the police," Bernaness said.

He said the order could be part of the "dirty frigid conditioning" employed by his rival in block his victory.

"The people of Surigao have already spoken. Barbers is very desperate and could not accept defeat as he's doing this delaying tactic," Bernaness said of his former ally.

As of Saturday, Bernaness continued to advance with 62,317 votes from 18 of the 20 areas of the province, including Surigao City based on the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) tally.

Barbers, who switched party mid-line brother Rep. Aye Barbers, was trailing with 56,658 votes.

Abalos said last pending the resumption of the provincial canvassing, the proclamation would be held even if there were no complete offering rich or candidates.

"Consequently, the proclamation of

Declare poll failure in Sulu, MNLF asks Comelec

CHRISTMAS CITY—THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) has called on the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in the entire province of Sulu.

Rabbi Jaun Jali, chair of the Bangsamoro People's Congress and spiritual advisor of Sulu gubernatorial candidate and MNLF chair Bin Mosani, said the huge vote margin over Mosani was maintained even before the actual voting took place.

"The Bangsamoro People's Congress will not recognize the result of the election and the number of electoral precincts in the province—wide-scale fraudulent acts," Jali said.

He cited the case of Luuk town where "midnight voting" allegedly happened.

"They (Comelec personnel) could easily detect that all the ballots here are already scanned," he said.

Jali also said thousands of registered voters were disenfranchised as "they were still displaced and languishing in different evacuation centers."

There are 251,218 registered voters in Sulu's 18 towns.

Those who failed to vote on Monday included ERICE commander Omadz Ahmad Misdi and his mom, whom government forces have been pursuing for more than a month now.

Misdi registered as a voter in December last year, apparently expecting the candidacy of Mosani.

When Mosani filed his certificate of candidacy, the MNLF announced that it sees 80 percent none of every claiming that most of the people of Sulu would support Mosani.

But on April 11, Misdi and his men

20 local execs support poll failure declaration in Biñan

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—TWENTY OF the 24 barangay chairs of this town have expressed support for the declaration of a failure of elections here, even as their school officials of poll fraud supposedly committed against a mayoral candidate who is the son-in-law of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

In a hastily called town hall meeting on Saturday, the village chiefs openly declared their condemnation on the petition filed by Assemblyman Walden Bello, who accused his rival, incumbent Vice Mayor Marlyn Alonte, of conniving with unscrupulous teachers and the Smartmatic.

Bello, a former senator, is running for governor in Monday's elections.

The barangay chairs said they themselves witnessed how individuals closely connected with Monte harassed voters and even padlocked some of the precincts in Biñan's known bailiwicks.

In an open letter to Abalos, the Comelec suspended the canvassing of votes in favor of Bello.

It also scheduled the hearing by Bello's appeal to declare a failure of elections in the town.

Alonte, former and current barangay officials were seen inside the polling precincts while telling the voters that the election was suspended and that they should go to the municipal hall to join a protest rally," said a barangay leader, who asked not to be identified for security reasons.

The barangay captains said they themselves witnessed how individuals harassed voters

He said that because of these harassments, more than half of the town's more than 106,000 registered voters failed to cast their votes.

"Suspiciously, the delay in the opening of precincts and the harassment of voters occurred only in places where I enjoy mass support," Saturnold the barangay.

Capability to commit fraud

Despite his comment, Alonte laughed off allegations that she planned to defeat Bello, who is her personal cousin. Bello's father and Alonte's mother are first cousins.

Alonte said, "If somebody has the capability to commit fraud to remove his victory in the elections, it is Bello Pierre."

"Do you really think I have the power to do that? Am I the in-law of Chairman Abalos?" she quipped.

Alonte said that votes her camp garnered the delay in the opening of the polling precincts.

She said that if not for the delay, she would have easily beaten Bello by at least 20,000 votes.

Timing

She questioned the timing of Bello's petition. "He only filed that upon realizing that I was winning. It was also pretty obvious that the Comelec ruling was influenced by local bias."

Alonte said it was unfair to link Abalos to the political feud in Biñan.

He said the issue blaming his affinity to the Comelec chair to the initiation of the suspension on the canvassing of votes was "just a rebuttal allegation."

"I am already a politician when I married my father-in-law's daughter. I already went as a top contender and later as a vice mayor even before my wife's father was appointed Comelec chairman," he said.

"Why? Is it a sin to be the son-in-law of Chairman Abalos?"

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Small but terrible' wins in E. Samar

By Cynsie Calvelotas
Inquirer Visayas

BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR—"Small but terrible."

This was the moniker given by the boardwalk of supporters and fans to the pumpkin-sized congressional candidate who put to a halt the dynastic ambition of outgoing Rep. Marcelino Libanan in Eastern Samar's politics.

Teodulo "Didoy" Coquilla, 68, was proclaimed winner of the congressional race for the lone district of Eastern Samar close to midnight of May 18, winning over Congressman Libanan's wife Elda with a margin of 7,107 votes.

Coquilla, who initially ran as an independent but eventually became a candidate of the Partido ng Manang Pilipino–United Opposition (PMP-UNO), said it was a David-and-Goliath battle.

"Who would have expected that a guy who attended high school for nine years will beat the mighty Libanans?" he said. "Friends and relatives here tried to talk me out of the race for I seemed to face a titanic wall, and boy did I prove myself right."

Coquilla was born to a poor family in Oras, Eastern Samar but migrated to Leyte, something of himself when he joined the United States Navy. He retired from the US Navy in 1980 and engaged in various business enterprises, including operating an inn/resto, a restaurant, a gas station and a tanning house.

Coquilla had regularly been returning to Oras on vacations but it was in the late 1990s, when he and his Filipino-American wife Graciela, a retired nurse, decided to leave their home of 40 years in Salinas, California, to retire and settle in Oras.

He was cool soon as Oras mayor in 1998 but served only for a year and four months before he was removed because of questions on his residency. He decided to renounce his American citizenship and regained his Filipino citizenship in November 2000. He ran again as mayor of Oras in 2004 but lost.

With his experience and lesser political machinery, Coquilla was never considered a serious contender when he decided to run against a Libanan in the May 14, 2007 elections. He only had a few reluctant supporters.

In contrast, Elda Libanan (Lakas) had the backing of the administration being the wife of a three-term congressman who is also the secretary of the department Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat (Lakas-CMD) party.

However, some events made many Estobanons root for Coquilla.

Lawyer Bailey Benjamin, Coquilla's legal counsel, said Coquilla's chances of winning peaked up in the end.

"The registered rural conditions of Eastern Samar did them (the Libanans) in," he said.

"When they made the repairs, election campaign was almost starting already," he added.

Benjamin said the people also sympathized with Coquilla because he was not allowed to campaign at the public plaza in many municipalities.

In a Church-sponsored candidates' forum, Elda Libanan said the roads were not repaired right away because the budget was not approved by the Senate.

In a live radio broadcast on yesterday, Congressman Libanan denied any allegations of fraud during the election.

THE JOYS OF SUMMER
A group of boys outside each other cannonballing into the clear waters of Lake Kalibagu in Carmen, Laguna.

Mayor-elect orders ejection of incumbent mayor

RAMON, ISABELA—TENSION rose here on Friday when the newly proclaimed mayor-elect ordered the ejection of the incumbent mayor from office.

"I will vacate my office on June 30," said Mayor Raymund Espidol.

His order finds him in Philbeds Subag in the municipal center. Talsag obtained 9,186 votes while Espidol had 7,283.

Dennis August Sanchez, chair of the municipal board of canvassers, proclaimed Talsag and the other winners on Wednesday night.

Talsag also issued a memorandum on May 16 ordering the head of the municipal human resources management office to disregard a May 8 memorandum of Espidol dismissing 99 "nuisance" employees, nearly appointed by Talsag.

The memorandum, bearing the letterhead of the office of the municipal mayor, was signed by Talsag.

"Mr. (Talsag) has no legal personality to be issuing such a memorandum as he has not to occupy the office on July 1," bloated de la Cruz, municipal administrator, said.

In 2004, Espidol won the municipal race but was exploited by Talsag in a year when a new municipal board of canvassers proclaimed him winner in that election. Espidol contested the proclamation in a petition he filed with the Commission on Elections.

On April 19, the Comelec issued an en banc resolution naming Talsag from office, it ruled that the election returns from the town's 41 precincts were spurious, tabulated and manufactured.

Espidol assumed office on April 19.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Domestic Seat Sale

₱1

Sale period: May 17 to 22, 2007 or until sold out!
Travel period: July 16 to December 15, 2007
Promo is non-refundable.

LOWEST YEAR-ROUND GO FARES

₱1,499 Manila - Kuala Lumpur

₱1,999 Manila - Taipei NEW!
Cebu - Hong Kong
Manila - Hong Kong

₱2,499 Cebu - Singapore
Davao - Hong Kong (via Cebu)
Manila - Singapore

₱2,999 Davao - Singapore (via Cebu)
Manila - Bangkok or Jakarta (non-stop)

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS
MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES

Call (02)70-20-888

CEBU PACIFIC

Espina patriarch claims defeat a result of black propaganda

CEBU CITY—CEBADOS OSPINA III, PATRIARCH of the most influential political clan in Biliran, yesterday maintained that his defeat in his province's congressional race was a result of a "successfully managed black propaganda campaign."

Espina Jr., who was defeated by a neophyte Glenn A. Chong of Liberal Party, claimed he was a victim of "unfair tactics" engaged by his opponents, and even by some news and political analysts in the province of Biliran.

He said among the issues raised against him included being linked to the killing last year in Cebu of Senator Gen. Danilo Padilla.

He said that it was true that Gene Coquia, the gunman in the Padilla killing, used to work as a security personnel at the Biliran Capitol, but the latter had been dismissed months before Padilla was killed on Sept. 7, 2006, as he was disembarking from a boat in Cebu City.

He said Coquia was a known tough guy in his province and reportedly killed Padilla because a few days earlier Padilla had roughshoulded him before several people in Wood's Barbecue Plaza.

As the incumbent governor of the capital town of Naval, he said he had also been accused of building a "ghost" hospital worth P21 million. "The truth is that the P21 (million) is not for a hospital for Naval but an hospital of its own, but for the Municipal Public Market Complex and Slaughterhouse," he said in a statement sent to the Inquirer on Saturday.

He said he was also accused of raising the real estate taxes and public market stall rental in Naval when "the truth is that real estate taxes and rentals were raised before my time."

"I was only sixty seven (67) days old as elected official residing in the upgrading of Naval from a 4th Class to a 3rd class municipality on the first half of my term as Naval mayor," he said.

Espina Jr. said he was also falsely accused of using government money in his leading businessman canteen mainly to small-time farmers and vendors.

Espina said the Biliran Savings Bank Business Credit Assistance (BSBCA), which he owns, provides low-interest loans to the vendors and small-time farmers would no longer have to go to loan sharks. He maintained BSBCA does not use government fund and is duly registered with appropriate agencies.

He maintained he got the ire of some Catholic priests and nuns because of his support for family planning, which he launched last year.

Despite his defeat, Espina Jr. said he was happy that his son, Rogelio, was elected governor of Biliran, together with all his slate in the provincial board.

"I am the capital mayor of Naval, except for the mayor, our vice mayoral candidate and 7 out of 8 municipal councilors won."

Rogelio's widow, Susan Velasquez-Padilla, was elected mayor of Naval.

"But as regards Peter Joy's Town Orphanage, Deputy Speaker Joe Violago of the House of Representatives and 21 years of service elective positions, is more than I ever dreamed of," Espina Jr. said.

Army asked to present intel officer in abduction

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KIDAPAWAN CITY—THE LAWYERS AND FAMILIES of two abducted activists in Iloilo urged the military to order its former intelligence officer in Western Visayas to appear before the court to shed light on the abduction.

They said the continued absence of Col. Marciano Perez in the hearings on a petition for habeas corpus have bolstered their suspicion that military intelligence agents were involved in the April 12 abduction of Nilo Tayag and Ms. Lena Rosa Dominado.

"If they have nothing to hide, why has he not appeared in the hearings?" said lawyer Elenor Rodriguez, one of the counsel of the petitioners.

Teodoro said AFP chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon should require Perez to attend the hearings.

Perez failed to attend Thursday's hearing in the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 and two other previous hearings. Only officials of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division were present.

Manongas of the court to secure subpoenas on Perez to attend the hearings have failed. Court representatives who tried to serve the subpoenas at the office of the Military Intelligence Group at Camp Martin Delgado in Iloilo on April 30 and May 4 said employees of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) office refused to accept a copy of the court order and summons.

"This is a show of disrespect of a government office against a court," said Teodoro.

Perez was relieved from his post a few days after the two victims were abducted by unidentified armed men in Oton town in Iloilo. Arado was chair of the militant Bayang Alyansang Mahaharyan in Panay while Dominado was spokesperson of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (SAKSI-Panay).

In Cotabato Tan, 302 public information officer, had said that they did not know the exact date and hour of Perez's transfer to Manila because they belong to different units of the AFP.

Perez is among the respondents in the petition for habeas corpus filed by the victims' families. The other respondents include Col. Reuben David, commander of the Army's 301st Brigade, and 203 commander Maj. Gen. Jovenal Sorzio.

Sorzio and David have denied any involvement in the abduction of the two activists.

Tan also has offered to reimburse P100,000 in reward money to help locate the two victims.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Tan also said he wanted to express to the families of Dominado and Arado that they want to help locate the two victims and help alleviate their fate and to resolve the case of the abduction.

Duterte, daughter dominate Davao City politics

DAVAO CITY—As ballots were counted, embattled Mayor Rodrigo Duterte went a fresh three-year term while his daughter and running mate Sara's first shot at politics succeeded.

On Friday night, the Duterte team were among the proclaimed winners in the May 14 elections here.

But they failed to extend the presidential ambition of Senator Sam had to be brought to Malacañang amidst tens of millions of pesos.

It was an easy win for the Dutertes, who have virtually an insurmountable opponent.

Duterte got 582,380 votes while Sara got 558,895 against four opponent, poll tic.

Irma Vera Bluvel, Jr., chair of the city board of canvassers, announced the names of the winners, along with their members of the mayor's Hugpong sa Tawong Lungsod (Alliance of City Dwellers) party.

Of the Hugpong candidates, only Councilor Bonnie Dominic (second district) and anophyte council candidate Jaypee Aminola (third district) were defeated.

In the congressional race, Rep. Prospero Nograles got 114,896 votes against two unknown candidates.

Tough fights

It was a different story in the second and third districts.

In the congressional race, Rep. Prospero Nograles got 114,896 votes against two unknown candidates.

Tough fights

It was a different story in the second and third districts.

In the congressional race, Rep. Prospero Nograles got 114,896 votes against two unknown candidates.

VIDEO Board of Election Inspectors and their police escort arrive at the Alcantara Gym in Davao City from Barangay Magtuba in Paquibato District, a day after the election that ended with no violence.

Supporting both camps claimed victory, citing National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) records, even as the Comelec was still trying to reconcile the presents.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, Rep. Corazon Malanyaon trailed ambassador Cow Maria Elena Bautista-Oil by over 50,000 votes.

But the Palma-Gil site not yet off the political scene.

Palma-Gil's daughter, Board Member Maria Cassandra Bautista-Uy-Bello was her reelection bid.

In Compostela Valley, the Erdos was for more pro-administration parties Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino and Lakas-CMD realized no friday.

Dominant party

Lakas candidates ensconced in the congressional, gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial races. Also, of least eight Lakas candidates won in the 18-man provincial board.

The provincial board of canvassers on Friday proclaimed Arturo "Chinggoy" Uy as governor-elect. Uy got 126,574 votes against Rep. Ca-

Sudiacal with 81,105.

Bordercrosser Wes Cow Pared Cortes guys won with 122,907 votes against Arman Gene' 88,432.

In the first district, incumbent Rep. Manuel "Way Bayo" Zamora won a fresh term with 63,964 votes over Lito Bellasmen' 35,596, and Dinalupihan village chief Frances Tito's 2,167.

Outgoing first Jose Caballero had to Rommel Amoreng in the the second district. Caballero garnered 42,889 votes while Amoreng got 70,320.

Absolute Aura, first-termed Zamora, 59-Sandy Diaup and 48-San Manuel, Inspector Mendoza

CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

INQUIRE: 815 – CISM (2476) (0917) 815-CISM www.cismanila.org

Feel healthy, look sexy!
Biguerlai® Unisex Slimming Tea

Head-turning. Attractive. Desirable.

HOTLINE: (632) 723-2168 / 727-9984

HiTi CS-300

•Dual-sided Card Printer
•Auto Card Flipper
•Up to 100 cards / hour
•Multi Thickness Support

SRP: P125,000

*Free 200 pcs PVC ID card

Rm 5A 395 Banawe St., QC
Tel.7328991; 4158454 Fax. 7419743
email: info@apextunetrading.com

PREVENTING THE LOSS OF TIME, MONEY AND LIVES IS A LOT TO EXPECT FROM AN ID CARD.
BUT FARGO DELIVERS.

If you think theft, violence or terrorism will never land on your doorstep, think again.

FARGO
The World's Most Secure Card Identity System

GMP PHILIPPINES

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS TREASURES...
THE WORLD'S MOST STUDIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACT...
WITNESS THE HISTORY... DISCOVER THE SCIENCE...

THE MYSTERY OF
The Shroud of Turin
THE PHILIPPINE EXHIBITION

UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY!

WATCH OUT FOR THE MOST ENGAGING EXHIBITION TO VISIT THE PHILIPPINES EXCLUSIVELY AT THE FOLLOWING SM SUPERMALLS!

IS THIS THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST? YOU DECIDE...

Shroud Exhibit International, Inc.

Panlilio win should not set precedent, says party

By Christine F. Esguerra
and Nikko Dizon

[illegible] victory must not be cited by the Catholic Church in the Philippines and its counterparts to justify relationship with political parties.

A Catholic political party which fielded candidates in the May 14 elections yesterday warned that Panlilio's victory as Pampanga governor should not set a precedent for fellow clergymen in the political fraternity.

"It shouldn't be the case," Nandy Bedoya, founder of Ang Kapatiran, told the Inquirer yesterday.

Partisan and fellow Catholic professionals were particularly concerned about the extent of clergymen's involvement in the political sphere, which captivated only they took it upon themselves to form a Catholic political party three years ago.

They had stated that Kapatiran was to be strictly guided by the social doctrines of the Church, including the guideline that the clergy's involvement is political affairs.

Knowing that the Vatican didn't encourage the clergy's direct participation in governance, Kapatiran considered lay Catholics to run for public office this May Sunday three months after establishing, it also convened 15 local positions.

The idea of lay Catholics—not their shepherds—directly getting involved in politics appeared guided by the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI titled "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love).

In serving as justice and charity providers a clear and balanced discussion on Church-politics

"The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle for creating about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State.

Play her part

"Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to awaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper.

"A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will in the demands of the common good is something utterly essential to Church-doing."

Panlilio's 'peculiar case'

Despite his group's stated position on the clergy's involvement in politics, Paulino expressed flexibility in the case of the 55-year-old Panlilio.

"His case is peculiar," he said. "I think he really called on people to run for governor, but there was no line-up.

In the end, the supposedly reluctant Panlilio beat Lilia Pineda and incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid, whose families controlled Pampanga politics for many years.

"Now that he's there, we, even those who are not from Pampanga, should all support him and pray for him," Paulino said. "His political opponents will jump at every opportunity to destroy him. They will not rage all over him so we should all be vigilant."

Bedoya also cautioned the faithful against reading all hope solely on the shoulder of one man even if he was a priest.

To be sure, he said there would be failures during Panlilio's administration and issues would be hurled against him.

"We don't want the people to end up disillusioned, thinking that their heroes are one as all," he said.

Fr. Robert Reyes, the popular running priest who is on leave from his parish and is teaching English in China, said yesterday in a statement to the Inquirer that Panlilio's dual role as priest and elected official will test the constitutional provision on the separation of church and state.

Reyes said Filipinos, and indirectly the Church, should set aside the past feud of Lapid-Panlilio would balance his role as priest and politician and instead give him and the people of Pampanga much needed support.

He said Filipinos should be sure that things should start with Pampanga and not afloat itself in "indecision and inconsistency."

"In the end, we spend time and energy agonizing about whether to act or not to act in a way that is 'politically' or 'ecclesiastically' correct and missing the opportunity to do good," Reyes said.

Common Pampanga folk assert will from the ground

Pineda, and the sitting governor.

More than any other candidate in the 2007 elections, Panlilio raised Philippine concentrated wisdom on its head in what is truly a political break-through in a province with a long history of agrarian unrest and landlord-leaderism.

Frankly, I cannot bring myself to share the enthusiasm of a number of gullible political commentary who have been watching the signs of change in political leadership movement from the senatorial election results.

They are beside themselves singing praises over the staying power of two military rebels—Brigadier Honasan and Senator Trillanes. It hurts breaking to the dubious grips of their involvement in the failed 2003 [illegible] mutiny—in the winning 12 column of the still unconquered canvass.

The instant analysis heralded Honasan and Trillanes as the fourth heavies of a new generation of celebrity political pundits promising to be the "hope of the fatherland."

Some have even held me Trillanes as the "new Ramon Magsaysay, untainted by corruption and idealistic." It is a daunting task to compare both these evidences at the court-martial of Trillanes for alleged rebellion relative to the political financiers of their failed putsch.

Healthy skepticism

A healthy skepticism over the emergence of new ensemble solving from volunteer service, particularly the military, a natural breeding ground of self-possessed saviors of Philippine democracy is the best response for journalists to protect themselves from jumping on board the bandwagon of newly discovered "heroes" and the public from worshipping at the altar of new political idols emerging from this election, only to be disillusioned to find later that their idols have feet of clay.

Armed with this knowledge, I view Panlilio's election with qualifications and notes it on what reliable evidence permits it is for this reason that I hesitate to be swept off my feet by the exuberant celebration of overwhelmingly civil society pundits over Panlilio's election as a "miracle."

One such civil society leader, known to be a bitter critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, exclaimed: Panlilio "has come out as one of the best examples of anti-establishment politics, one who challenged the worst of Philippine politics."

A pocket of hope

According to this assessment, "the Pampanga is showing that you can win without guns, goons, gold and Garci." He represents a core of energy, a pocket of hope in Philippine politics."

To do justice to Panlilio's remarkable political feat and to resist the temptation to read into it more than it could bear, we must first ask the right questions.

Panlilio's victory was a resounding repudiation of the administration's candidate, Lapid, who was the undisputed favorite. Lapid, who is a political heavyweight in the province, was expected to win by a landslide. Panlilio, a political neophyte, was a virtual unknown.

Lapid was elected governor in 2001 with 270,000 votes, while Panlilio, running against Lapid, got 219,739 votes, winning by a slim margin of only 1,147.

He defeated Lilia Pineda, a provincial board member, and re-electionist Gov. Mark Lapid. Pineda's father, Lapid's "godfather" [illegible] Pineda, and Lapid is the son of former Pampanga Governor Ed and incumbent Sen. Lito Lapid, who has been defeated by Mayor Jejomar Binay in the election for mayor of Makati City.

Pineda's father and Lapid are known to be close to Ms Arroyo, making Panlilio's election a rebuff to Ms Arroyo by the Pampanga electorate in her home grounds.

People Power miracle?

To claim that Panlilio's election was a "miracle" and another demonstration of "people power" misrepresents the true measure of his victory. What the election revealed was that the common people of Pampanga answered the call of the Church to vote for its favored gubernatorial race, with 219,739 votes, winning by a slim margin of only 1,147.

He defeated Lilia Pineda, a provincial board member, and re-electionist Gov. Mark Lapid. Pineda's father, Lapid's "godfather" [illegible] Pineda, and Lapid is the son of former Pampanga Gov. Ed and incumbent Sen. Lito Lapid, who has been defeated by Mayor Jejomar Binay in the election for mayor of Makati City.

Pineda's father and Lapid are known to be close to Ms Arroyo, making Panlilio's election a rebuff to Ms Arroyo by the Pampanga electorate in her home grounds.

People Power miracle?

To claim that Panlilio's election was a "miracle" and another demonstration of "people power" misrepresents the true measure of his victory. What the election revealed was that the common people of Pampanga answered the call of the Church to vote for its favored gubernatorial race, with 219,739 votes, winning by a slim margin of only 1,147.

He defeated Lilia Pineda, a provincial board member, and re-electionist Gov. Mark Lapid. Pineda's father, Lapid's "godfather" [illegible] Pineda, and Lapid is the son of former Pampanga Gov. Ed and incumbent Sen. Lito Lapid, who has been defeated by Mayor Jejomar Binay in the election for mayor of Makati City.

Pineda's father and Lapid are known to be close to Ms Arroyo, making Panlilio's election a rebuff to Ms Arroyo by the Pampanga electorate in her home grounds.

People Power miracle?

To claim that Panlilio's election was a "miracle" and another demonstration of "people power" misrepresents the true measure of his victory. What the election

Pineda questions priest's win

Related Stories: Story 1

"The lawyer of Board Member Pineda also expressed her intention to file a petition when the [illegible] canvassing was over," Bobo said on Friday's canvassing.

Pineda did not answer Inquirer calls to her mobile phone on Sunday.

Based on the Mabalacat Bids, incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid obtained the highest number of votes at 21,419. Panlilio received 18,470 votes and Pineda, 13,691.

Minus the Mabalacat votes, Pineda commanded a lead of 1,858 votes over Panlilio.

Time to unite

Panlilio took the lead when votes from Magalang, the last town to be tallied, arrived. There, Panlilio received 11,897 votes, giving him an edge of 1,147 votes over Pineda.

As Pineda questioned Panlilio's victory, the spokesperson of her party, the Kabalikat ng Mabuyong Pilipino (Kampi), offered the hand of reconciliation to the new governor yesterday.

"I think it is time now to unite behind Among Ed (Panlilio) for the sake of Pampanga," reelected Gov. Mark Lapid's son Jerry Pelayo told the Inquirer by phone.

Pelayo said he still supported Pineda because she had accepted the request of the Pampanga Mayors League (PML) to challenge Lapid.

He said this had also led the PML to convene today to set the league's agenda with Panlilio.

He said this included the convening of the provincial develop-

governor yesterday.

"I think it is time now to unite behind Among Ed (Panlilio) for the sake of Pampanga," reelected Gov. Mark Lapid's son Jerry Pelayo told the Inquirer by phone.

Pelayo said he still supported Pineda because she had accepted the request of the Pampanga Mayors League (PML) to challenge Lapid.

He said this had also led the PML to convene today to set the league's agenda with Panlilio.

He said this included the convening of the provincial develop-

Masbate: Old dynasty out, new dynasty in

"Tony" Kho.

The third-term governor, in turn, won the congressional race in Masbate's first district, defeating Mahdi Ingkiano-Matabalan by a margin of 13,879 votes.

Reelectionist Vice Gov. Vicente "Vino" Revil handily won over Espinosa Jr.'s sister daughter, Rosario, by some 22,000 votes.

Masbate Rep. Emilio Jr. ABC-DBS (the president for corporate affairs and public relations), is the eldest daughter of slain Rep. Blas Espinosa.

The Khos, who came to power only a decade ago, then ruled a political dynasty—one of the longest in the country—in one fell swoop.

The Espinosa dynasty was started by Emilio Espinosa Sr. who served as the 10th Philippine legislature in the 1930s.

Espinosa Jr., Emilio Jr. ABS-CBN vice president for corporate affairs and public relations, is the eldest daughter of slain Rep. Blas Espinosa.

The Khos, who came to power only a decade ago, then ruled a political dynasty—one of the longest in the country—in one fell swoop.

The Espinosa dynasty was started by Emilio Espinosa Sr. who served as the 10th Philippine legislature in the 1930s.

Reelectionist Vice Gov. Vicente "Vino" Revil handily won over Espinosa Jr.'s sister daughter, Rosario, by some 22,000 votes.

Masbate Rep.

'I filled up ballots in Maguindanao'

From page A1

life, including Santos's son's," she said.

"Isa doon sa' akin na pwede sa akin ang ipinatawag sa' kin ng Diyos. Ang sinabi ko lang, sana naman ay ibalik niya ang kapayapaan sa Maguindanao," she said.

Following the teacher's allegations, Lorenz urged the Comelec to send a Manila-based team to Maguindanao to investigate her charges.

Medina said the teacher had suggested that the Comelec open all the ballot boxes in Maguindanao to see the "kind for truth."

The teacher's allegation led Lorenz to say that candidates of President Macapagal-Arroyo were pouring 12-0 scores in the areas. And here in Maguindanao, which is part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Lorenz said she was one of the ARMM partners mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes where dictating allegedly ordered in 2004 to help his Arroyo win the presidential election.

The 12-0 votes PDAers belonging to Maguindanao flew in the face of voting results in many other areas of the country where the Genuine Opposition candidates were registering winning tallies of 8-2-2 or 7-2-3.

While Lorenz remains in touch with the teacher, Medina refused to identify her.

"I cannot reveal her identity for safety reasons as the last time she is in Maguindanao, she is under heavy security," Medina told reporters.

"She fears that if she is known, her entire family will be put in danger, even her relatives will be affected."

Asked what was evident in our conversation was her sense of frustration over the whole thing."

File formal complaint, says Comelec official

By Nikko Dizon

ELECTION COMMISSIONER Rene Sarmiento yesterday urged Lorenz to send him a formal complaint about alleged cheating in Maguindanao.

"The [allegation] has to be validated," he told the business.

Stressing the need for a validation and concrete wording of reports, Sarmiento noted that in Sulu there were also allegations the elections were over even before May 14.

Yet, he said, the provincial election supervisor reported a hitch-free conduct of polls.

"There are reports that are not true. That's why we have to check and validate them," Sarmiento said.

Sarmiento said he had not received the allegations but said the Comelec promised were assessed of cheating in the 2004 elections in the area. This was why he implemented a regular reshuffle of election officers.

But higher Comelec officers could no longer be reshuffled at the time for same in an emergency in charge of the area because "many problems" might arise, Sarmiento said.

Lorenz said the Comelec had appointed lawyer Ignacio Bagil from the main office as new provincial election supervisor in Cotabato del Sur to oversee the special elections in Lamitan del Sur.

the lawyer said.

It also happened in 2004

Medina said the teacher complained that she and the other three she said her colleagues were forced to fill ballots at gunpoint.

The teacher also alleged she and the others were ordered to fill up block ballots in the 2004 elections.

According to Medina, the teacher and other city [illegible] down from a superior.

"She is scared to name the governor [Islamabad saying sabihin ng gobernador]," Medina said.

But the teacher was more open in discussing the specific instructions given to them.

"They had a list, five on a sheet [illegible], second was Pichay, and so on," Medina said in Filipino. "The instructions to them were to write these names down on the ballots."

Her sister quoted the teacher as saying: "Gumaya na lang ng sulat ng kapwa guro [illegible] ng gobernador."

But the teacher was more open in discussing the specific instructions given to them.

"They had a list, five on a sheet [illegible], second was Pichay, and so on," Medina said.

No use for indelible ink

The teacher's diatribe seemed unaware with those of some local officials who said no elections took place in the province.

"The elections did not take on May 14 at 3 p.m., all precincts closed and no actual voting took place, although the teachers were all inside the premises. The indelible ink supplied by Comelec Manila was not used at all," Medina said.

He said other machine-based electoral irritants in supporting the Comelec has also rallied Cotabato del Sur officials to the common cause.

Pointing more finer to vote, the National Board of Canvassers composed of the Comelec commissioners summed the tallying of COCs at 4 p.m. yesterday.

In the Bamboo room, Cabinet, after Hagedorn's Mayor 12:05 a.m. day on Saturday night, moved back to 11th place after Emmanuel repulsed the 12th slot.

Legarda remained in No. 1, followed by Escudero, Lacson and Roxas.

In his 5-man Pangilinan Aquino was No. 6; Angara, No. 7; Defensor, No. 8; Honasan, No. 9; Cayetano, No. 10; and, Williams, No. 11.

Both 28, the Sunday night operator Ben Hamdel exhausted just before 10 p.m., indicated that the quick count had already covered 27.7% precinct in 44,075 of the 224,748 precincts nationwide.

Since Saturday night, Hamdel has verified and included in its latest tabulation entries from Metro Manila, Regions I, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Caraga and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Also since Saturday night, the government of Cayetano, Trillanes, Pimentel and Zubiri have been ever static.

Zubiri, after climbing to No. 10 late Saturday dropped to No. 11 early Sunday before settling at No. 13.

Cayetano, who was at No. 13 Saturday before settling at No. 12.

Trillanes, after hovering at the last slot of the Magic 12 Saturday, dropped to No. 13 and climbed one notch as of No. 12.

Pimentel moved from No. 13 Saturday night to No. 12 the following morning and stayed there until last night. With reports from Marc Pedja and Madeleine Oliveti

Comelec count puts Pichay in 10th place

From page A1

and unofficial" canvass, gave the PDAer the comfortable remaining cushion, the same as the Genuine Opposition. Two independents also made the cut.

The partial tends-away campaign by the business from the candidates of Arroyo's party and Pichay, the Comelec, which is sitting as the National Board of Canvassers.

The GoCs from Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, boosted the campaign of Lacson and those of other PDA candidates.

But in the count by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) last night, GO increased its number of slots at eight, leaving PDA with just two slots in the winning circle. Two independents also made it.

Pichay had never made it to the Magic 12 in the separate quick counts by the media and Namfrel.

Neither was he in the Top 12 candidates in the nationwide exit poll conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. on Election Day on May 14.

But Pichay placed second after Loni "Chavit" Singson of TK in the partial count of votes in Ilocos Sur, where all the 12 TK candidates landed in the winning circle.

The Pampanga vote-rolling was officially unveiled by Namfrel.

As of 9:30 last night, the other PDA candidates who made it in the Magic 12 in the Comelec count were Joker Arroyo (7th place), Alfredo Lagman (8th), Ralph Recto (9th), and Miguel Zubiri (12th).

The first GO candidates were Loren Legarda (2nd), Francis Escudero (3rd), Manuel Villar (4th), Panfilo Lacson (5th), and Sonny Aquino (6th).

The independents were Ivan Gonzales (10th) and Gregorio Honasan (11th).

Also Cayetano (GO), who consistently landed in the winning circle in the previous media and Namfrel counts, dropped to 13th place last night from 6th place on the 20th count.

Antonio Trillanes of GO slid to No. 15 from No. 9.

Aquilino Pimentel III of GO dropped to No. 16 from No. 12.

From 16th to 10th place

Pichay, who ranked 16th as of 6:00 last night, jumped to the 10th spot with 2,988,333 votes. He wanted 415,276 votes from Pampanga alone.

From the 15th slot, Recto rose to 9th place with 2,849,968 votes. Pampanga, an administration bailiwick, delivered 21 per cent or 405,000 votes for him.

Zubiri climbed two slots high-ish moving to 12th.

The poll body has so far tallied COCs from 25 provinces and 5 cities in Metro Manila as from 75,000 provinces out of the 223,000 precincts nationwide.

Bush ...

From page A1

relationship with Bush in interviews released on Saturday.

"I think as far as the advisory lawyer on the nation around the world, the administration has been the truest command I would again go unpunished, Medina said.

"We request the Comelec to send an investigation team and talk to the witnesses fully, look for indelible ink on their fingers because the teacher said the ink was not used," he said.

Challenge to Abalos

To Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., Medina also posed more in the election Chair. Stand 'wise-commissioned, Medina said. "Prompt the required affidavits and witnesses. On its case, the [commission] should inspect and [hold one and interview people."

Medina said the GO candidates fighting to stay in the Magic 12, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, and his lawyers will file an election protest with the Comelec today to determine dollars in the canvass reports submitted by canvassers in Mindanao, specifically in Maguindanao.

This was disclosed yesterday by Pimentel's father, Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., who confirmed that the election protest could affect some half million votes in Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Shariff Kabunsuan.

Barely a block of votes could add to the proclamation of senators fighting for the last four to five slots, he said.

Pimentel said the reason for the delay of the canvassing was also "questionable."

"Magdaya-bonus" (vote-padding and shaving) were wanting until all the votes in other areas had been counted so they would know how many votes to produce, using rigged ballots, PDP reports told Cabinet.

Cabinet.

Republicans strike back

The White House declined to comment on Carter's statement, but the Republican National Committee struck back at the former US president.

"More Americans will probably take his criticisms with a grain of salt considering he also challenged Ronald Reagan's strategy for the Cold War, and history has proven Reagan was wrong," RNC spokesperson Andrea Willenson.

Carter said RNC that if Bush had opposed the invasion, he could have enlisted the meeting of the world's leaders and "the whole world would have known that Washington is shying off of this, even if the British prime ministers had not been able to stop the war.

"It would certainly have assuaged the protests that have [inflamed lately," Carter said.

"One of the defenses of the Bush administration is unanimity and worldwide ... has been 'Oh, we must be more current in our actions that the world thinks because Tony Blair is backing us," Carter added.

"I think the combination of Bush and Blair giving their support to this tragedy in Iraq has made opposition less effective and has prolonged the war and increased the majority that has resulted," he told the BBC.

In the newspaper interview, Carter also criticized Bush for giving Israel secrets between Egypt and Israel, also criticized Bush's Middle East policies.

"For the first time since Israel was founded, we've had two presidents willing to try to bring a resolution of differences in the Middle East. There's a radical departure from the past," Carter said. Reuters

Why 3 Kapatiran bets lost

From page A1

district for stately years in the Dail.

Mates who teamed up the Philippines list year, "they for people knew about us."

Matter of strategy

Besides said there was time, the Kapatiran was running as a party-list group. "That's how had the numerous problem area," he said.

He attributed the problem to bad political strategy. "In the lack of clear" the party leadership.

"They're all good-natured, but they were all mine, apparently because they're not politicians,"

he said. "The impact of our advocacy was great but this wasn't translated into votes."

Kapatiran said Kapatiran but pri marily because it failed to properly present its advocacy in an area to where such a strategy was key.

Meager funds

"Despite bought the old problem even if they were had simply because of the voter packaging," he said, referring to families names topping the senatorial race in the unofficial returns.

"In other words, we had a good product and it had packaging."

The lack of a sound strategy was apparent in instances when newspaper ads seeking campaign fund donations failed to mention the names of Kapatiran's senatorial candidates, he said.

Wrong issues

With an overall campaign kitty of only around P3.5 million, Pandoy said he and his fellow candidates could not afford to spend a third of all the country's precincts.

At the start of the campaign, Kapatiran relied heavily on the quiet support of the Roman Catholic Church, saying that it was the only party-list group "closely associated like to relationships of the Church.

But some church time, "one of less in the Church didn't deliver," according to Pandoy.

"A few bishops did their thing, but many others preferred to keep mum," he said.

Pandoy said the party was also partly to fault for focusing on the Catholic leadership, inquiring the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, instead of involving its regional chapters in the grassroots. The way referring to the Iglesia Evolved Communities, or IEC, the smallest Church unit found in every barangay.

No regrets

Disillusionability many bishops preferred not to actively support Kapatiran because to do so would have violated the principle of allowing the laity to take the lead in a political undertaking, he said.

"If this issue, we should have focused on the bishops, not the top, of the hierarchy," Pandoy said.

On the eve of the election, Pandoy had expected a full-scale, pre-party at the house of lawyers Mario Ongkiko, a top official of the group.

The dinner, an hindsight, became a celebration. Kapatiran, in the end, was not ready to cash in on the idea that God has to be at the center of Philippine political life.

Cousins recycle campaign billboards into school bags

From page A1

the particular hyped-senatorial candidates Jose Miguel Zubiri and Francis Escudero, who took of their promotional plan, hereby during the campaign.

Clemente sees a pending outpouring from Dasi Print, while Pantaleon is to engage many.

Out-of-work sewers

As part of their companies' corporate social responsibility programs, Clemente and Pantaleon began making bags out of billboard ads three years ago with the help of out-of-work sewers in Marikina City.

"Right now we have a very humble start. We are hoping that the big companies will follow," Clemente said.

Aside from helping unbudded, dirt- and unemployed women, the creative duo is encouraging the entrepreneurs by recycling non-biodegradable materials that often end for hazardous dumped.

World without waste

Clemente and Mother Earth chair Odette Alcantara said the recycled bag project complied with the environmentalist policy of zero waste.

"With so many tarpaulins of the wages [traditional politicians], how do you dispose of them?" she said.

The project reaches mothers and schoolchildren how to build a world without waste," Alcantara said.

"We are trying to call attention to the limited resources of the world and teach the people about the importance of caring for the environment," she said in an interview.

To ensure that only free scraps

are produced, the project has one master cutter who carefully cuts patterns from the plastic materials, according to Clemente. The project employs about 20 sewers.

Donated to schoolchildren

Clemente said her group was paying some P17 per bag. The bags are donated to schoolchildren in poor communities and relatively richer areas.

The project originally was billboard ads. After the recently concluded elections, said to be the most expensive yet, Clemente and her sewers were consigned with one many materials to work with.

"Can you imagine the tarpaulins all over Metro Manila? We are running out of funds, but we are not running out of materials," she said.

Gifts, giveaways

Clemente said she and her cousin started making bags out of the campaign materials three months ago, the most of the campaign period to material considerations and big groups.

She described the billboards and tarpaulins to be ideal materials for bags, saying that they are durable and water-proof because the textile belong to plastic. Her group can use it as the outside material, Clemente said.

Aside from the politicians, Clemente called on companies to turn their billboard ads. She has already talked to Coca-Cola and consumer goods to encourage them to participate in the recycled bag project.

Companies, Clemente explained, could use the bags instead of traditional giveaways like t-shirts and paper bags, instead of using per bags, which are not reusable.

MOLDEX PRODUCTS, INC.
SANIMOLD Extra
uPVC SWV PIPING SYSTEM
Walang Tagas!
www.moldex.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY
MAY 21, 2007

DTA. UZCAR'S Marwan Gonzales (second from left) and Bally Williams (fourth from left) hound Coca-Cola's Kenneth Duremdes during their PBA encounter last night.

"I want a Postpaid plan that really pays off."

It's possible! Only Globe Postpaid offers you GCASH to pay for your utility bills.

Get as much as P2000/month in GCASH to pay your electric, water, cable, Globe bill, and more.
FREE
GCASH
For 12 months
SUBSCRIBE TO
Plan 1800 or above

Not only do you get GCASH, you can also have a cooler cellphone when you get these cool bundle phones:
at 0% interest
for 18 months at PLAN 1600 or above

Globe Postpaid, giving you the best value offers that no other network can!

NOKIA Nseries
Globe 3G
yes sir, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Penny guides Bulls to top

By Jun Mosura

JAMES PENNY PRODUCED another monster game as Red Bull overcame Air21, 105-101, last night and seized the sole lead in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Penny unloaded 28 points and hauled down 10 rebounds in a performance that drew praises from coach Ning Dizon, who has resisted calling the shots for the Bulls after getting re-elected as Barangay vice governor.

Calvin Cruz and Phoenix Fuel Masters complemented Penny's brilliance with crucial baskets down the stretch.

Cruz sank seven of his 13 points in the fourth quarter while Phelps drilled in a pair of jump shots that softened up the 21's last charge.

"It happened on that, we never expected to be this 1 to the point," said Dizon, whose Bulls secured the lead with a 11-0 second.

With the win, the Bulls clustered the triple tie at the top with the Alaska and Barangay Ginebra.

Arwind Santos shot eight of 18 from the field and six of six from the stripes to lead the Express with 20 points. Rhenn Dionido added 13 points and 20 rebounds.

The Express, who controlled the first half, took their sixth defeat in 11 games and fell into a tie with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

In the overtime round, Alex Cabagnot and Kenneth Duremdes came down hard on their former team as the Coca-Cola Tigers whipped the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 114-95.

Duremdes pumped in a conference-high 23 points and Cabagnot added 19 points and 13 assists as the Tigers pulled up their seventh win in 11 games.

"It's always a challenge to play against your former team," said Duremdes, the 12-year veteran who has retired up for four PBA teams. "I had the chance to prove that I can still play."

A three-pointer by Duremdes early in the fourth gave the Tigers a 19-point spread, 95-46, and pulup started a rally that had ABT Bonn and Cabagnot applying the finishing touches.

The Game
Final Game

COCA-COLA 114— Duremdes 23, Yeng 12, Cabagnot 19, Adams 11, Pena 14, Cabag 7, Simond 2, Ildefonso 2, Angeles 2, Pascual 0.

STA. LUCIA 95— Williams 2, 0, Wilson 14, Jones 17, Mendoza 7, Gonzales 6, Lopez, Mercado 2, Ayala 6, Baghasi 4.

Quarters: 28-26, 63-62, 86-81, 114-95

Second Game

PEGASUS 106— Perez 19, Cruz 13, Hernandez 12, Baguio 12, Sharma 10, Chaniel 6, Pinaroc 6, Pingoris 4, Jamisola 4, Rojas 0, Rodriguez 0.

JERU 101— Gamboa 25, Grimm 16, Gonzalez 15, Cruz 13, Lucas 11, Sy 11, Ermitaño 6, Amigo 2, Tampoquian 2, Andaya 0.

Quarters: 28-27, 49-48, 78-74, 106-101

Baby Tams overpower JRU five

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY (UNOFFICIAL)

Anna Rizal University, 90-80, yesterday to record its chances for a quarterfinals slot in the juniors division of the Metro Summer League basketball tournament at the FEU gym. Fred Lee scored 19 points and Jaime Castillo added 15 for the Baby Tamaraws, who posted their fourth straight win.

Aplus METRO
Editor Boni G. Dipasupil
Tell us your feedback: (02) 896-6000 local 4301 (Globe) or (02) 924-4802 (Smart) E-mail: a_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Reelectionists win QC congressional seats

Losing bet's supporters heckle winner

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE Commission on Elections in Quezon City yesterday proclaimed the winners in the congressional races in the city's four districts.

All the four newly elected representatives were reelectionists: Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (first district), Anna Rose Nograles Banal (second district), Marian Debuque Ubial (third district) and Nanette Castelo-Daza (fourth district).

Each one posted a sizeable lead over their closest rival for the congressional seat before they were proclaimed the winners at 2 a.m. yesterday by the Comelec.

Immediately after she was declared the winner, Daza's enumerated some 30 supporters of her rival, Jaime "Chuck" Matias III, outside the City Hall session hall where the canvassing of votes was being held.

According to members of the Quezon City Hall police detachment, Daza-Bautista was making her way to her car when a group of people, whom they identified as Matias' supporters, heckled her.

The group accused her of cheating and bribing Comelec members to ensure her victory.

"Manalo pero (dinaya)!" said "Comelec, nabili [The Comelec was bought]," some members of the group reportedly shouted at Daza's, the police said.

Stone-throwing

Despite the presence of policemen who were assigned to her, the group threw stones, candles and bottles of water at the congresswoman.

The group only calmed down when many policemen arrived on the scene.

Sinama was not hurt in the incident, the police said.

Matias's supporters also reportedly complained about the haste with which Sinama was proclaimed the winner with 28 percent of the canvassing yet to be completed. They can questioned why the nine winners were proclaimed at 2 a.m.

Local Comelec officials, however, explained that it was already mathematically impossible for Matias to catch up with Sinama in the tabulation of votes.

Based on the Comelec's tally before her proclamation, Sinama had 69,747 votes over Matias's 72,756.

Last Friday, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, his running mate Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, were declared the winners in the mayoral and vice mayoral race, respectively.

As of yesterday, only the winning councilors for the city's four districts have yet to be proclaimed.

CATCHY NAME
The name of a restaurant at the Strata Building on Ortigas Avenue is sure to grab one's attention. jaime laurel

Possible po, sa Globe Worldwidest Services.

P7.50/minute Tipid IDD

To USA & Canada

From 10pm to 5:59am (Philippine time).

Dial 12808 (Country Code) (Area Code) (Phone Number)
For Postpaid & Prepaid

Hindi na po kailangan ang registration.
Tumawag lang kaya nitatalog pakra sa buong gabi ng matatamis na kuwentuhan. Kaya mag-Globe na po.

Iba n'yo naman, ang galas n'yo sa Globe

BANCO DE ORO
Unibable PO! ... Your Bank of Choice

Super Value HOME LOAN

Gives you low, low interest for as long as 25 years!

FREE landline and unlimited internet access for up to 2 years!

Globe preferred partner

Citizen's call

Small bills only at MRT

I'M SO disappointed with the new policy of the Metro Rail Transit, specifically in North Triangle station. Every time I wanted P100 and P1,000 bills! They wanted a sign that says, "No change for 1,000 or 1000 peso bills. Please use smaller bills." How is this possible when the company we're from (made) of thousands of pesos a day? Please check on this. Worse as inconvenient for commuters. Thanks in advance.

EDWARD GOOSOY, 29, Pasay City

Heavy traffic on Boni Avenue

PLEASE, take action regarding the daily heavy traffic on Boni Avenue from the Pioneer tunnel, Barangka to the PLUP Technical University. Please cut down on the left and right lanes in those areas and put at least two more lanes for pedestrians, and instill discipline among jeepney drivers with respect to loading/unloading rules. Thank you.

(SIC), 21, Mandaluyong City

Warned: Garbage cans in Baclaran

I'D LIKE (SIC) some by the Baclaran area and I see a lot of headlights at night but I have never seen a garbage (drop) truck can for people to use. Does (there) be garbage bins in several places in the area.

ARIES (SIC), 45, Taxis Cavite

Dump beside deep well

MAY DRAGGING landslide ng basura ang mga (ipapa)tirin sa Mayamot St. pero may katabing public deep well. (There's an area on Mayamot Street that is being turned into a dump by residents but it is beside a public deep well.)

JULIE RODRIGUEZ JR., Marikina con (Republique Street), Fairvil Bldmar, Quezon City

Illegal power connections

ILLEGAL power connections are still rampant in our area, particularly on E. Vincent Street. Now, meeting or brownouts during weekends. Many complaints have been sent to Meralco but to no avail. Though they already have the list of violators, they just keep on ignoring it. Are they waiting for (a) accident to happen? Wake up, Meralco!

FM ESCOBAR JR., 31, Warner St., Holy Spirit, Quezon City

WATER GONE TO WASTE

From Master Lim, 68, Bustos Road, Quezon City: "Bustos Road at the corner of Pearl Street on Tandang Sora Avenue has been wet and slippery for more than a year now because of a leaking water pipe. Many and smoke-belching tricycles also pass by regularly. These tricycles should not be allowed to register if they have no mufflers. The noise and smoke pollution is just too much! The barangay hall is just minding, but no action has been taken on these two problems so far. Thanks for alerting the proper authorities."

Tallying of votes suspended in Muntinlupa City

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CANVASSING OF ELECTION returns in Muntinlupa City was suspended yesterday after two of the three members of the Board of Canvassers fell ill and had to be hospitalized.

BOC chair Ma. Lourdes Opilo was was brought to the Asian Hospital by 9 in the morning.

On Saturday night, a member of the board, Fe Paz, was rushed to the Medical Center of Muntinlupa.

It was not clear what the two women were suffering from.

At yesterday's start of the canvassing, only BOC member Edwin Tagorda was present, leading the suspension of the proceedings until the Commission on Elections can appoint replacements for the sick members.

This prompted congressional candidate, Ricardo "Dong" Puno, to express his concern over the "suspicious mood" of the BOC members.

"In a time when I am leading in the official count for three straight days, the members call in sick and Dra para the canvassing are held for an indefinite period," Puno said in a statement.

Puno, a lawyer and former broadcast journalist, is running in the 3rd Congressional district against incumbent Muntinlupa Rep. Rufy Biazon.

He added that two of the three members falling sick at the same time was highly suspicious.

Earlier, Puno filed a petition seeking the immediate relief and replacement of the three BOC members, whom he blamed for the slow pace of the canvassing.

He also asked the Comelec to suspend the proceedings and move it to its main office in Intramuros, Manila.

This was opposed, however, by Biazon. "The longer the canvassing will take, the higher the chances of cheating forms will take place," he said.

Biazon's brother-in-law, Puno's legal counsel, said they would not want to change the site of the canvassing if only the BOC members would speed up the pace of the canvassing.

Tonight for comment, Biazon said in text message to this he wrote: "I'm not lagging behind. The last official Comelec tally places me ahead at 11,187 votes against Puno's 10,307 and the remaining barangays and precincts to be counted are my bailiwicks. Yesterday's count placed me higher."

For added color, I dare them to show their election returns that give credence to their claim of being the leaders in this election. As for the sick members of the BOC, I pray that they recover from their illness."

With Reinhey O. Hamed

Eusebio ready to reconcile with Jaworski

By Kristine L. Alave

NEWLY PROCLAIMED PASIG CITY MAYOR Robert "Bobby" Eusebio yesterday said he is willing to forgive and make amends with his political rival, outgoing Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski.

"The people of Pasig have spoken. Sine pupo, we did. I'm appealing to my political opponents (that this is not the time to lead) animosities at each other. Ilipin na po ang alabanan at dapat magkaisa-isa tayong tulo para sa kapakanan ng mamamayan ng Pasig (The elections are over and we should join help each other for the good of Pasig residents)," Eusebio said.

He will be replacing his father, Vicente, the incumbent mayor, after securing more than 9,300 votes against Jaworski. Eusebio was proclaimed at 3:45 a.m. last Saturday.

Aside from Jaworski, Eusebio said he would pursue the protestations of his rival. He also described as "suspicious" the Board of Canvassers' decision to go ahead and declare Eusebio the winner despite his claim that there were many fraudulent election returns.

The canvassing, which was started by shooting, Jaworski said, would make it hard for people to accept Eusebio as their mayor.

Credibility problem

"Ang problema ngayon si Bobby ay kung kakalimutan niya ng mga taga-Pasig kung mayor (Bobby's problem now is whether people in Pasig will recognize him as mayor)," Jaworski said.

Eusebio, meanwhile, dismissed the allegations of widespread fraud and cheating in Pasig City. "I do expect the feelings of losing in the elections. But like what I said before and I will say it again, the election in Pasig City was very peaceful. There was no goal foul or what any road is claiming," the mayor-elect said.

Jaworski and his legal team last week filed at the Commission on Elections a petition nullifying the outcome of several election returns.

They contested 36 IRs during the canvassing and filed a petition to stop the canvassing of votes, temporarily halting the proceedings for an hour last Friday.

DID YOU KNOW

ON MAY 21, 1901, about 400 members of an obscure anti-saloon league in Malaya marched in Philadelphia Palace to throw Rev. Frederick Howard Hanson. Holding bows and beating swords, they charged into a group of saloonists who blocked their path to Penn City. After the skirmish, over 20 lay dead. Survivors of the group, including their leader, Valentine Nelson, were later prosecuted for sedition. Nelson's case was heard in the National Malaya Supreme Court where he was found not guilty.

Carl L. Abrahamis, Superior Research

Couple who filed suit over cake lose case

By Lelo B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS TURNED down a couple's plea for damages against a bakeshop which they claimed created a "poorly-looking" cake for their wedding, which caused them "embarrassment and humiliation."

In dismissing the petition of Edgardo and Stephanie Abenina, the appellate court said in its April 20 decision that the couple was not entitled to the P50,000 in damages they they sought for breach of contract because Merced Bake House Inc., was not guilty of fraud, negligence or breach of agreement when it made their wedding cake.

The couple sued the bakeshop after it allegedly made a "crudely strange coloured cake which was certainly inadvertently ugly, looming and poorly-looking" for their June 1997 wedding.

According to the Abenians, Merced did not follow the cake design and style which they had agreed upon. The couple had asked the bakeshop to copy a cake created by cake designer Rony Sison after they saw a picture of it in a magazine.

The case, however, was dismissed by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court in December 2000.

According to the lower court, the couple's many unreasonable cares they wanted a duplicate of a more expensive cake at a low price. But the court ordered the bakeshop to refund the P4,775 the Abenians had paid for the cake.

The couple, meanwhile, elevated the case to the appellate court.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals said there was no evidence that Merced intended to mix the couple's reputation or cause them anguish.

It added that the couple would only be entitled to damages for breach of contract if there was bad faith or gross negligence on the bakeshop's part.

After their wedding, the couple had returned the cake to the bakeshop and demanded P 225,000 in damages. Merced Bake House offered to refund their payment as a gesture of goodwill but the Abenians refused and instead their demand for damages to P50,000.

HOT, HOT, HOT!
A woman shows her fire-eating skills during yesterday's celebration of the Cacao Festival in Bacolor on, Pasig City.

Binay to Palace: Stop harassment

By DJ Yap

IN THE WAKE OF HIS LANDSLIDE VICTORY, reelected Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has wrested the Arroyo administration to give up all efforts to oust him from office or face political suicide.

"It's possible that Malacañang will stop harassing me. [President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo] must have exhausted all means already to oust me," he told reporters in an interview this morning.

"She should stop the confrontation and harassment already since we're talking of only three years left," he added.

"Otherwise, everything will be affected ... If she pushes through with all this insidious harassment, she might cost Hardship votes," Binay, also president of the United Opposition, said.

"If they continue ... it will affect my way of life, our economy whether we want it or not. At this point, Ms Arroyo has become powerless," he said.

"Remember this is the second leg of her questionable tenure," he said at the sidelines of the Iftar Makati pagsasti Sehl at the Rizal Ancestral Hotel.

On May 4, Binay was served a suspension order in connection with a complaint filed at the Office of the Ombudsman by a political rival who had accused him of keeping ghost employees.

New Gaza truce takes effect; Israel presses raids

ON ARMED militant of the Palestinian Islamist group Fatah al-Islam shoulders an RPG launcher and holds a copy of the Koran in a refugee camp in north Lebanon on March 21. AFP

GAZA CITY—(ROSE, PALESTINE as factions clinched a new ceasefire deal on Saturday to end a week of violence that has left more than 50 dead as Israel continued to pound Gaza, killing three Palestinians.

Gunmen began to abandon rooftop positions and to remove street barricades under the eye of Egyptian negotiators and representatives of different factions, organized by the military adviser to Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, Gen. Ahmed Razzaq al-Majaida.

"The agreement has begun to be applied," Majaida told AFP after seven hours in he taken around 1030 HRS. "The armed men are coming down from the street blocks and the barriers are being removed."

It was the fifth such deal since violence erupted on Sunday but the first in which steps were actually taken to implement it.

The deal was struck at the Egyptian consulate in Gaza in the presence of Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, who had been in contact with other Hamas political supremo Khaled Meshaal as well as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Abbas.

Gunmen had clashed in the streets of Gaza City earlier but a new truce brought in by taken around 1030 HRS. "The armed men are

11 dead as Lebanese troops battle militants

TRIPOLI, LEBANON—ELEVEN people were reported killed in fierce fighting between Lebanese soldiers and Palestinian Islamic extremists accused of links to al-Qaida on Sunday, the bloodiest battle yet in the country.

The battles erupted at dawn on the streets of Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli and inside the neighboring Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr al-Bared, an AFP reporter said.

Several Lebanese soldiers and four militants from the Islamist extremist group Fatah al-Islam were killed, the head of Lebanese Security Forces Gen. Ashraf Rifi told AFP.

Fighting also erupted on several streets in Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city after the capital Beirut.

Although the clashes were reported to have died down later, troops were continuing to hunt for militants hiding out in Tripoli, where soldiers in jeeps and at least one tank were seen rolling through the streets and plumes of smoke billowed into the sky.

A Palestinian source said at least 15 people were injured in the gun battles around the Nahr al-Bared camp, a stronghold of Fatah al-Islam.

Rifi reported seven injured among the security forces.

In Beirut, the head of the anti-Syrian parliamentary majority Saad Hariri issued an appeal for calm and called for the population of Tripoli, a mainly Sunni city, to cooperate with the Lebanese army.

By longstanding convention, the Lebanese police and army do not enter Lebanon's 12 refugee camps, leaving security there to Palestinian militant groups.

Lebanese authorities have accused Fatah al-Islam, a Palestinian splinter group which is ideologically close to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, of working for the Syrian intelligence services.

The group was also accused of carrying out four bombings in a mountainous Christian area north of Beirut in February that left three people dead.

Fatah al-Islam denied any involvement. AFP

Ghosts wail as Cambodians plunder killing field graves

By Sich Medora

SRI LUAE, CAMBODIA—RESEARCHERS ARE examining a long-unknown killing field in Cambodia's north, the graves of thousands of victims of the Khmer Rouge from the 1970s.

But local villagers hunt it first. By the time the researchers arrived in early May, some 300 graves had been dug up and the bones scattered through the woods by hundreds of people hunting for jewelry.

"Every year we were running to chase to dig for gold, so I never rest," said Srey Net, 56, describing what seems to have been a communal frenzy that ordeal the poor and isolated village. "If they can dig for gold, why can't I?"

It was the first such raid the researchers had recorded in the thousands of buried mass graves they have documented around the country throughout 1.7 million people died from 1975 to 1979 from starvation, overwork and disease as well as torture and executions.

"People said, 'The graves has no owner,'" said Dak Sook, 60, a famous Pear cultivator among the graves, but villagers took whatever they could find.

The invasion of what has been almost universal ground suggests that past tensions are starting to fade even in Cambodia populace to begin a long-delayed kind of some Khmer Rouge leaders, said Youk Chhang, a leading expert on the period.

Youk Chhang heads the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which has researched the killing fields and retrieved a huge archive on the Khmer Rouge years. Visiting here on Thursday, one of his investigators said that could be as many as 9,000 bodies buried in the woods behind this village 100 miles south of Phnom Penh.

Though the pain of the past may have faded, the bones and the ghosts of Khmer Rouge victims still terrify many rural people. After the arrests on the Sri Lua ground, dozens of villagers stopped filled with remorse and dread.

The digging has stopped and several people said they had been awakened at night by screams from the graves.

"People heard voices calling out, 'Help me! Help me!'" said Svay Samoen, 58, a deputy village chief. "Maybe they are angry at the villagers for digging up their graves. Or maybe they were inclined to death, and now they are being tortured again by people who are disturbing their sleep."

Ang Sinem, 67, a farmer with four small children, said she could not sleep for three nights after digging out small gold earrings and a spoon.

"I'm afraid that the owner will take revenge on me because she died with nothing but her earrings and now I have taken them," Srey Sinem said. "She'll say, 'Please give them back.' They are all I had." *New York Times News Service*

A CAMBODIAN peasant views a pile of human bones at a Khmer Rouge-era mass grave site in Sri Lua village, Cambodia on May 15. The villagers have ransacked the graves looking for gold hidden in the remains of people who died or were executed during the Khmer Rouge rule. AP

Romanians block plans to impeach their president

BUCHAREST—ROMANIANS REJECTED ON Saturday a move by parliament to impeach reformist President Traian Basescu in a referendum which gives the suspended president a resounding vote of confidence to remain in office.

Two exit polls released after voting ended at 8 p.m. showed between 74 and 78 percent voted "no" to plans to impeach Basescu.

Exact turnout figures were not available but were likely to be just below 50 percent, slightly lower than in the 2004 presidential election. Official results are due on Sunday.

The Basescu suspended Basescu as president last month and called the referendum on the grounds he had overstepped his authority and pushed the European Union newcomer into a political deadlock.

His opponents have also accused Basescu of using the country's services to discredit them.

No proof of this has emerged, while many Romanians see the ex-sea captain as an anti-corruption crusader and a symbol of their long-frustrated goal of rejoining the European mainstream.

Soon after the voting ended, thousands of Basescu supporters gathered at Bucharest's University Square to celebrate and demand that Basescu's opponent, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu, step down.

"Down with Tariceanu, down with Tariceanu," they chanted.

Tariceanu himself called on his centralist alty to resign and call early elections. *Reuters*

No result from US hunt for Bin Laden

WASHINGTON—A MASSIVE HUNT for al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden launched by the US Central Intelligence Agency last year has produced no significant leads on his whereabouts, The Los Angeles Times reported on its website Saturday.

But citing unnamed senior US intelligence officials, the newspaper said it has helped detect a significant increase in the movements of al-Qaida operatives and money from Iraq into Pakistan's tribal territories.

In one of the most troubling trends, US officials said, that al-Qaida's operational base in Pakistan is being increasingly funded by cash coming out of Iraq, the report said.

Al-Qaida operatives in Iraq are taking substantial sums from donations to the anti-American insurgency as well as kidnappings of wealthy Iraqis and other criminal activity, according to the paper.

The influx of money has bolstered al-Qaida's leadership cadre in Pakistan, The LA Times said.

The virtual silos signaled a reversal in the traditional flow of al-Qaida funds, with the organization's leadership relying on a large extent on money coming in from its more profitable franchise, rather than distributing funds from headquarters to distant cells, The LA Times said.

Little more than a year ago, al-Qaida's new command was thought to be in a financial crunch, according to the report. But US officials said cash dropped from Iraq has eased those troubles.

"Iraq is a big moneymaker for them," the paper quotes a senior US counterterrorism official as saying.

The CIA employed as many as 20 clandestine operatives in Pakistan and Afghanistan—a dramatic increase over the number of CIA case officers permanently stationed in those countries, the paper said.

All of the new resources have failed to meet the primary objective of finding what counterterrorism officials call "high value targets," meaning Bin Laden and al-Qaida's number two, Ayman al-Zawahiri, according to the report.

Nevertheless, US intelligence and military officials said the surge has yet to produce a single worthy piece of Bin Laden's or al-Zawahiri's location that could be substantiated, The LA Times said.

"We're not any closer," the report quotes a senior US military official as saying. *Reuters*

OSAMA bin Laden

GANITO KALAKI ANG BANTA NG BIRD FLU

Wala pang bird flu sa Pilipinas, pero kelangan pa ring mag-ingat.
Ugaliing maghugas ng kamay at huwag basta-bastang humawak
ng ibong may sakit, naghihingalo, o patay na.

Bird flu: Kayang iwasan, kayang pigilan.

Maghanda at maturo. Pumunta sa **www.iwasbirdflu.com**

All sectors unite to fight bird flu

In a country that seems divided over every issue, it's refreshing to see how the threat of bird flu has brought varied sectors together.

Since the bird flu outbreaks in 2003 in several Asian countries, the government and various private sector groups have embarked on an increasing number of efforts to shake the threat. Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, the National Avian Influenza Task Force (NAITF) has brought together currently government agencies, nongovernment, health, animal scientists, local government, disaster management, literacy and media organizations, the poultry industry representatives, voluntary experts and foreign aid agencies as well.

The NAITF's efforts have so far focused on increasing surveillance activities in critical areas of the country, and educating and training Local Government Units (LGUs) and public individuals. They've also stepped up controls against illegal importations of live birds and processed poultry products from countries banned due to bird flu.

Many other sectors and organizations have helped, each in their own way. The Corporate Coalition against Bird Flu is urging and helping big companies prepare contingency plans for a possible pandemic. Other government line departments also helped.

Image like the WHO, FAO, OIE [illegible] and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) have focused on education and awareness. UNICEF has adopted NAITF's program called, "Iwas Flu, Kayang Kaya. [illegible] Kayang Pigilan", aiming to efforts towards children — as experts found to be very susceptible to bird flu, based on the experiences of affected countries.

In the other hand, the PPI has embarked a training program for journalists. Given the technical nature of bird flu and of pandemics, deep knowledge and understanding will be needed to accurately report on developments.

LGUs have pledged financial and logistical support. Local officials and volunteer authorities have urged to alleviate farming sectors, especially in regions where migratory birds are seasonally plentiful or where there are large broiler, layer, and duck populations. They want to find out how best to protect their constituency's livelihood activities, and prepare for any future incidence of bird flu in their localities.

[illegible] and other information on a variety of www.iwasbirdflu.com.

President GMA herself has pledged to release funds to implement measures preventing the entry of bird flu, as well as to prepare the resources necessary to cope with a possible outbreak.

And the spirit of unity — fostered by the fear of bird flu — extends beyond our shores. Countries commonly bickering on trade and foreign policy have been sharing manpower, resources, and information to further combat bird flu. President GMA personally visited Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in embracing the bird-ravaged health sector. A total of 40 highly trained government veterinarians was formed and dispatched immediately. In a recent ASEAN Summit, one of the key discussions was to organize a united stand against bird flu.

The beauty of this whole effort is in how we didn't have to come to a crisis to realize the need to come together. Whatever disputes have been set aside, and it may make all the difference.

The Philippines is one of the hardest hit by countries in Asia, and is hanging by a thread. But with the various sectors, and countries, all pulling together and holding on, it just might not break.

unicef

IWAS BIRD FLU

Signs of Bird Flu in Birds

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purpled discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea

Tips on how to protect yourself from Bird Flu

- **Practice proper hygiene.**
  [illegible]
- **Protect the children.**
  [illegible]
- **Protect yourself and your workers.**
  [illegible]
- **Protect your neighbors.**
  [illegible]

Call the Bird Flu Hotline:
925-9999

The WORLD

Gitte Laverne B. Sunico

PRINCE Harry in May 14, 2006 photo.

Now, it may be Afghan duty for Prince Harry

LONDON—BRITAIN'S PRINCE Harry, who was last week stopped from joining his regiment's deployment to Iraq, could be sent to join troops in Afghanistan, a newspaper said Sunday.

News of the World said it had information about plans for the 22-year-old officer, third in line to the throne, to join the fight against the Taliban, but was withholding key details.

Harry is a second lieutenant in the elite Blues and Royals regiment of the British Army's household Cavalry, responsible for 11 soldiers and four Scimitar reconnaissance vehicles.

Army chief Gen. Sir Richard Dannatt blocked him from being sent to southern Iraq, due to threats against his life that would put his entire "chain-of-command" in danger.

News of the World said that insurgents planned to hit both British troops in southern Iraq with elaborate bombs—which kill victims by burning their lungs—in by version of getting the prince.

Harry, known as Cornet Wales in the Army, is set to be posted to Afghanistan before 2008 and would carry out low-risk operations and wave a campaign medal after serving for 30 days, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper said. AFP

Chavez seeks Pope's apology for offending native peoples

CARACAS—PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ SOUGHT BENEDICT XVI's apology for offending native peoples during the Pope's recent attempt to reach out to Latin American Roman Catholics.

"In a bloody [illegible] we must [illegible] appeal to the peoples of our Americas," said Chavez, speaking last Friday.

"I believe it is the right thing to do."

Benedict XVI made quite an impression on his first visit to Latin America, home to about half of his flock, when he told local news that "[Christianity] was not imposed by a foreign culture." There was the Spanish conquistador, violently pointed for," the Pope said in Brazil.

Benedict also called a recent resurgence of pre-Columbian religions "a step backward," drawing protests from native peoples as far away as Mexico.

Natives in Ecuador also questioned Benedict's version of events.

"Surely, the Pope does not know that representatives of the Catholic Church of those times, with honorable exceptions, were accomplices, discoverers and beneficiaries of one of the most horrific genocides of all humanity," the Confederation of Indigenous Nations said in a statement Saturday.

The Pope's statements were still on Chavez's mind Saturday. "How could you say that they came—when they came with scriptures [Spanish] in one hand—with [illegible] of imperialism?"

The conquest of Latin America by Europeans "was something far worse than the Holocaust in the Second World War and we can now deny it, but even your I believe can deny the Holocaust of the natives of our land."

"Christ arrived much later to America; he did not arrive with [Christopher] Columbus. That was the arrival of the anti-Christ," said Chavez, whose speeches frequently rely on Christian teachings and baseball metaphors.

Chavez has met once with Benedict, in May 2006. AFP

Catholics say blog spreads BBC 'slander'

ROME—TWO CATHOLIC ROMAN CATHOLIC newspapers lashed out at bloggers on Saturday for spreading "slander" by posting a BBC documentary that alleged a Church cover-up of child sexual abuse.

The documentary aired on the BBC in Britain, but never in Italy. The bloggers translated it and it now ranks as Google Video Italia's (www.video.google.it) most popular item.

"We did the patient work of translating and subtitling it to fill this shameful gap," they wrote at www.Dopobarletta.it.

Newspaper Avvenire, which is owned by the Italian Conference of Roman Catholic bishops, slammed the web version as a front-page editorial headlined "Schmutzer Blender Via Internet." The BBC documentary examined what it described as a secret document written in 1962 that set out a procedure for dealing with child sexual abuse within the Church.

It objected to oath of secrecy on the child victim, the priest and any witness, a policy the BBC documentary said was meant to protect the priest's reputation during the investigation but "can offer a blueprint for cover-up."

Avvenire called the documentary "a potpourri of affirmations and pseudo-testimony that were at the time publicly repudiated" for being false and misleading.

The Roman Catholic Church has been hit in several countries, including the United States and Ireland, by lawsuits and allegations of sex abuse by priests.

British bishops last year criticized the BBC, saying it should be "ashamed of the standard of this journalism" and to censor this unwarranted attack on Pope Benedict." Reuters

RAPT DEBATE The parents yellow color of the skin of American child Eric Harris, 9 (left, with his brother Erik brother) is from a rare genetic disorder called Cutis Laxa syndrome. Children with the deadly disease most spend 11 to 13 hours a day undressed, under strong UV lights.

Give us 5 Days.

Or else, you get 1% less.*

PSBank

T.G.I.F.

PSBank Home Loan

SPORTS

Editor Tobbyric S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SAN MIGUEL 4P's center Asi Taulava (right) trades jokes with a member of Iran's Sabz Pertoury squad prior to the Filipinos' match against Syria's Al Jolan.

Syria relegates RP five to fight for third place

Whistle-happy refs foil Pinoys

TOMAS...A HOOPSHY LETLESS SAN Miguel-4P team yielded some to Syria's Al Ashaa, 109-77, Saturday to see its title ambitions sink in the 18th Fiba Asia Championship Cup at the Azadi Stadium here.

Ginebi Mohsen Mandalay shredded the 30's defense for 34 points and Brazilian cage legends Rafael added 26 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Syrians' reprise of their 111-66 rout over the Filipinos in elimination play last week.

And it did not help the Filipinos' cause that the basketball referees who worked their fine show games, which all ended in defeat, were there again to spoil the flow of their offense.

The Kuwaiti' win put their ended at two, with their fourth loss in six matches relegating them to the battle for third place with the three-time-reinforced All-Filipino-Xiamen last night.

The Filipinos' lads' ranks entered the last quarter without Iran's Sabzevari, Al Mohammaj before winning buyers favorite and Group 1 representative Blue Star of Lebanon to reach the semifinals of the eight-nation tournament.

But this time, about guts and grit could not risk arm-the only reward without an import here.

"We tried hard, but at the same time we're deep inside to outrage that," said 6'0" coach Chris Reyes.

The last time the Filipinos saw action in the annual tournament, in Manila two years ago, they ended up fifth. That preceded the team's current-era from tournament play by the interna-

The Syrians fade with four Iran's Saba Battery, a narrow 76-70 winner over the Qatari in the other semifinal pairing, for the championship.

Ghaith Cagaoan impressed for the Nationals with 24 points and Chenry Seigle added 20. And, despite containing Syrian imports Bernard Jean and Adna Nevens, they could not get their offense together going.

Fouls on Filipinos

Hussein referee Mohammad di Amjet officiated the game along with Pitaish referee Petro Mamyda and the two looked out eager to call fouls on the Filipinos.

The Filipinos were dapped 30 fouls, including three technicals and two deliberates, compared to the Syrians' 15, just four for the entire first half.

Also, the Syrians were awarded 43 free throws to the Filipinos' 15.

"It would have been a great game, but each time we made a run, a foul or a violation will be called against us, stopping our momentum," said Ian Migliad 4P scorer Asi Taulava.

Cagaoan, who fouled out after being dapped his second technical with 4:48 to go in the game, also blamed it all on the referees.

"Those referees took away our focus," he said.

Awe-inspiring win

"I was hoping last night's game didn't take too much out of us," said Reyes, referring to the 102-93 win over the Lebanese on Saturday.

Asia, who had a triple-double of 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 dish blocks the first time the two teams met, was held to only 13, 11 and two Saturday while Nassiri managed only eight points and 11 rebounds.

Doing the entire damage for the veteran were Maddock and Basilious Chanel and Barlas, who combined for all 34 Asha's 12 triples.

Syria easily broke off from the game's only tie at 10 with a 28-4 run anchored on Maddock's seven points. During that breakaway, the Filipinos committed five misses and three turnovers.

The lead ballooned to 57-14 before Cagaoan scattered 16 points on the Hussein's come within 16-46. That proved the closest they would get.

Fiba Asia

SYRIA 109—Maddock 26, Ismail 20, Chanel 15, Jain 11, Hamad 10, Hussein 6, Shaibi, Pharaon 2, Ismael, Ismail 0.

SAN MIGUEL 4P 77—Cagaoan 34, Seigle 20, Fermin 8, Reyes and 6, Ambrosio 5, Asi Taulava 3, Dela Cruz 2, Dela Cruz 0, Ayaqui, Villanueva 1, Ochoa 0.

Halftime: 53-34 **3rd:** 86-63, **10th:** 87

Lascuña settles for 28th place

FILIPINO TONY LASCUÑA CLOSED OUT with a one-over-par 72 Sunday and settled for a share of 28th place in the rain-shortened Mission Open tourney on a playoff by Taiwanese veteran Lu Wen-teh in the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Lascuña, the only Filipino to make the halfway cut, wound up in an 11-way tie at 289, eight off Lu's winning pace in the $200,000 event.

The 44-year-old Lu edged Australian Richard Hein in sudden death after the two had finished with 281 totals.

Lascuña, who earlier fired rounds of 68-69, posted $2,307.

Mon Juravel rudder death with two late birdies for a 69 but fell short of a number three Tour title when he could only par the third extra hole.

Indian Jeeter Dhri finished third, a stroke behind, after a 67 while Chinese Liang Wenchong grabbed fourth place with a 66-66 totals to the top of the Asian Tour's 10th Order of Merit.

Stage 4 Results

Quirimit seizes Tour overall lead

By Manong R. Carillo

VIGAN CITY—ARMEL QUIRIMIT COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER DAY to strike.

With his eighth finish in just bagging a stage, Quirimit yesterday became the third overall leader after four days of rain-scathed riding at the 2007 Shakey's Pedal Power after the other big game polluted with seemingly heavy legs all day.

The 33-year-old Army sergeant booked the Stage 4 first solo finish, riding with the strength no one in the field could match in riding the 207 kilometer grind from the Tropical resort city of Alaminos in Pangasinan in this drawing, age-old city deep in the north.

It was a stage that had climbs, sprints and rough stretches.

Quirimit, the 2003 champion, clocked six hours, 41 minutes and five seconds in toppling from eighth spot and claim ownership of the yellow jersey.

With a total time of 12:12:00:967, he owned a minute and 51 seconds ahead of Rafer Santos, who also finished second in the stage.

"My intention was just to win the leg," Quirimit, a native of Nueva Ecija, quotes, said in Filipino after cooling down, like the other riders, in the shower at first-aid tent.

"I did not really expect to get the overall lead [after this stage]."

Victor Espiritu, the 1996 Tour winner who wore the yellow jersey for two days, floundered and dropped to seventh overall, now 4:48 minutes adrift, after clocking in with an 11-man team that came to 52 after Quirimit.

"I felt watered near the final 30 kilometers," Espiritu said in Filipino. "I could not hold those from the group earlier included Lloyd Reynante, Joel Calderon, Jhanty Samaniego and Bernard Lunas).

"There's still time to get back."

Frederick Pelicano, the mountain specialist who was second to Santos Buenachea last year, finished third for the day and climbed to the same place in the overall race. He lay 2:11 off the pace, from 1:46 overnight, however.

"I need to muster a breakaway in the final 30 kms, I think," Pelicano said. "But I just did not have the legs to do it."

Santos, who started the day in second spot, just miss take behind Espiritu, also used the right roadway in the middle of the race. But even if Quirimit now held the overall lead, the 31-year-old still has his eyes fixed on stages.

"My aim all started in the leg," Santos said in Filipino. "I don't care whoever takes the yellow jersey and grabs the top five this point. They are still a lot of things that can happen."

Then I will have my sights on Victor (Espiritu), because he has been eyeing me since the start [of the event]," added Samaniego, who plummeted to eighth overall, a ring below Espiritu, for company with fast 11 team group.

Cossack Walks skipper Hansen Sun Hsiao assigned to fourth position 1:00:xx-all after finishing in Pelicano's group for the stage. He moved just 2:11 off Quirimit. It's point, and 37 seconds ahead of new fifth placer Eusebio Galicano.

While the big game struggled, there was an elder-statesman standout as well.

Leonardo Lagas Jr. led by his lonesome for the first 15 kms, even leading by as much as 11 and a half minutes at one stage, to set the longest-ever breakaway in record memory of the event.

ARMEL Quirimit (left) and Rafer Santos, the new overall second placer, pop celebrations of his victory in Barangay, Bacnar Sur, 4 kms from the finish line of Stage 4.

JUNJIE MALIT/PHILIPPINE STAR

Cossack riders back in the driver's seat after 3rd-place windup

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—OLD RIDING CHAMPION Cossack Cycles regained the overall team lead after a scathing loss in the stage 3 of the 2007 Shakey's Pedal Power from Alaminos to this vintage city.

The Cossack riders finished third in the 207-km journey, clocking a combined 37 hours, three minutes and 58 (+51 seconds to retain the yellow jersey briefly lost to Giant Asia after the third stage on Saturday.

With a total time of 12:43:58.208, Cossack, coached by Nestor Dimaya, now has a 12- second lead over Giant, which topped yesterday's stage.

Skipper Hansen Gambonan and assistant Michael Hayco carried the fight for Cossack. "We expected a challenge at the team standings," Dimaya said.

GMA helps KO Pacquiao

CORRECTION PLEASE. IT WAS NOT A knockout Manny Pacquiao had suffered at the polls.

Well, it had looked every inch exactly like a cold-blooded stoppage.

But take it from Dadong Custodio, the sassy clairvoyant who dealt Pacquiao the resounding defeat in their race for a seat in Congress.

The people have made an honest choice, Mr. Custodio explained in a live television talk with Pia Hontiveros Saturday night.

It was as simple as that, the composed, camera-friendly Sarangani solon explained.

Sorry but the knee would not seem to fathom the noble truth.

* * *

Based on the results, voters in South Cotabato did not find it hard to choose the right candidates.

Custodio was elated by nearly half the total of the votes awarded at precinct level.

It may not be indeed a knockout loss for Pacquiao, as Custodio had tried to assure his adversary.

But there was one big problem here.

Pacquiao, as of yesterday morning, had refused to concede while most official poll losers—including mayoral aspirants he had fiercely endorsed in both Makati and Manila—have accepted defeat.

This, naturally, has put mighty and popular Pacquiao among ridiculous-sorry losers who remained on hand Boer long after everybody has gone home.

* * *

"Lumaro Sinungo sa ang Diyos, nang pang kumagan (The IEI score has reached 50, but he's still on the floor)," quipped reporters during Sunday's celebration at Kumagay Gregorio in Hinatuan-ang City yesterday.

Indeed, the call of the day was for Pacquiao to get up and hastily accept defeat.

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

No, not necessarily so came here.

But that's what normally expected of honorable warriors.

It would make him a better man because, despite being a super hero, Pacquiao had just been made to realize that he can't win them all.

* * *

In the first place, hadn't he been reminded time and again that it was not the right fight for him?

Yes, Pacquiao was tired to push him and even came to Manila to help out in the poll campaign.

But those who tried to dissuade Pacquiao from running for Congress had undoubted sincere, trusted allies and advisers.

"If was useless telling him what was right, siya talaga may gusto (he really wanted it)," confided international fight manager Boy Mabaw Sabal of Cebu.

In a win, Pacquiao could not be blamed.

To repeat, he must've felt he had the perfect antagonist to beat Custodio, who was in no fit for a third straight term.

* * *

Money, popularity and, most importantly, Mohammad backing—he had everything in his book and call.

But Pacquiao had obviously overlooked one thing.

As Custodio would explain, Pacquiao had committed oblivion to the fact that the area they had contested was anti-GMA country.

It was an opposition bailiwick, the charming voters stressed.

So, this was not to say Pacquiao could've won had he not allowed himself to be both a big drag of Che President and a power boy of Palace desperation.

* * *

"Pacquiao has no reason to feel bad," Custodio clarified. "His should not be taken to mean people did not love him."

Simply put, they still adore and admire Pacquiao.

It just so happens that, as his last big fight, he allowed himself to be identified with Malacañang imbecilistic antics in the Batas Pambansa 880 rally fiasco.

There was no way he could have swindled being slumped.

Pacquiao walked blindly into a knockout when he refused to accept how much people hate some to hate his Malacañang connection.

He did play it very dumb and, as the showbiz boss love to put it, there's still no known cure for this.

CITY OF ILIGAN
Website: www.iligan-city.gov.ph
E-mail: bac@iligan-city.gov.ph
Telefax No. (063) 223-3044
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

[illegible]

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEO G. GUILLEN
City Planning & Development Coordinator
BAC Chairperson

CAMARINES SUR III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CASURECO III)
San Isidro, Iriga City
Tax No. 0541 230-2382

INVITATION TO BID

The Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III) per requisite of Corp policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards invites all interested Bidders/Suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the Supply of 6500 Meter on CONSIGNMENT BASIS and 667 resistors in set

10,000 units	WATHOUR METER
Specifications	
Shape	TOS (Round type)
Type	WLDCD
Class	2.0 (WH); 1.0
Volts	240 V
Ir	10 (20)
	Unidirectional
Form	2S

You may secure the Pre-Qualification Requirements from the Secretary of the Bids and Awards Committee, Finance Dept. CASURECO III, Iriga City anytime during office hours before the date of bidding.

Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 PM on May 30, 2007 and no documents shall be accepted thereafter. Only those who will be qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

BIDDING will be conducted at 2:00 pm on JUNE 1, 2007. Pre-bid conference will be on June 1, 2007 @ 9:00 in the morning coop function room. Bidder/ bid or multiple copies should be submitted to the BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE on or before 2:00 PM of June 1, 2007. Five (5%) percent Bidders bond is required as a matter of policy. Payment of non-refundable bidding fee of P3,000.00. (Please bring sample).

CASURECO III reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to CASURECO III.

(Sgd.) MR. PERFECTO R. OASCON
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. PEDRO M. PRESTADO JR.
General Manager

MercedesTrophy golf on; 3 Asian final slots staked

A FIELD OF 144 PLAYERS VIE FOR berths in the Asian tournament today in the second MercedesTrophy Philippines 2007 national elimination in the Ilo Ilonu Golf Club in Cabanas, Laguna.

The winners in the three divisions will earn slots in the Mercedes-Benz Asian Final slated Aug. 15 to 17 at the Taiyo Island and Lake Golf Course in Queensland, Australia.

The organizing Cars Motors, exclusive country distributor of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, said the three division winners up will also join the Queenslander trip.

Players with 9 to 13 handicap will be bunkered in Class A, 14-23 in Class B and 24-37 in Class C, said tournament director Ging Avella.

Scoring will be based on the Stableford System where a bogey is worth a point, a par two points, a birdie three points and so on.

Sponsors and special prizes will play in a Nassau 36-holer.

Only Mercedes-Benz owners can play in the tourney, which was held for the first time last year through Daimler-Chrysler South East Asia.

A Mercedes-Benz B-250 Concept Sports Tourer, Cathay Pacific business-class tickets for two and a Canon EOS 5D full-frame 12 megapixel digital SLR camera are available as hole-in-one prizes.

"Cars Motors and the local Mercedes-Benz community are thrilled because we are very accepted as the ninth member of the elite tournament," said Cars Motors chair Greg Evared president Ilde Ang.

Dr. Rainer Thiel, president and CEO of Daimler-Chrysler Southeast Asia, said elite one actions in today's tournament.

PLDT Corporate Business Group SVP Ernesto Alvarez (left) and CATS Motors president Felix Ang seal with a handshake PLDT's commitment as co-presenter of the 2007 Mercedes Trophy PP tournament. Looking on is Julie Carvalho, head of Smart Infinity BG.

Dazz stunner puts Harbour, CL in final 4

By Jasmine W. Payo

BAZZ-SAWI PERAC PULLED OFF A SHOCKER Saturday that propelled two other teams to the semifinals.

The collar-dwelling Kitchen Specialists did the inspirationalists a huge favor by upending Yoania Salamanca's early semifinal bid with an 86-75 decision in the PBL Unity Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

With the Road Kings' super fan, Harbour Centre exec and Gobanna Llorillas Wes Padilla's similar 8-2 records proved good enough for an automatic entry to the Final Four.

The Kitchen Specialists overcame the intimidating return of Pit Ada dar Devance by battling on the stellar shooting of Jewel Jurolla, who unloaded a game-high 22 points.

Devance, the Most Valuable Player of the same tournament last year, came off the bench late in the first quarter and debuted with 31 minutes and four boards in only 15 minutes of action.

"I think I played pretty well, we just have to watch out our defense as team," said Devance, the 6-foot-7 center who returned from the United States last Wednesday.

The Road Kings found consolation by keeping solo third place at 5-5, a record that will keep them a game ahead of other teams vying for the two-to-four semestre in the quarterfinals.

Under the league format, the top two teams at the end of the eliminations will earn outright semifinal slots, while the third- and fourth-ranked squads will clinch the two remaining berths in the quarterfinals. The team with the lowest record will be eliminated.

STANDINGS	W	L
C. Lhuillier	8	2
Harbour	5	5
Tequila Bar	5	5
Hershey Cocoa	4	6
Burger King	4	6
Coca	3	7
Magnolia	3	7

GAMES TOMORROW
(Ultimate Badger Sports Center)

8 p.m. — Burger King vs. Hershey Cocoa

8 p.m. — Tequila Bar vs. C. Lhuillier

Unimasa remained in the rallye with Sen Miguel Magnolia at 3-7, yet stands four back holdown the Kitchen Specialists are capable of snatching the wild-card slot their impressed form versus the Road Kings.

"We were not sure if Devance would play but the win showed our preparation in our defense and offense," said Noel.

Jamille Reed were straight points in the final period to widen the gap at 78-65, with 2:44 left.

Meanwhile, Doug Kramer earned the Player of the Week crunches for his role to Cebuana Lhuillier's two Bohol-to-five game winning run.

Kramer averaged 11 points and 12.5 rebounds in his last two outings, but coach Luigi Trillo said he is best 4 Heartbeat has been providing more than just muscles.

TRUCKS
SALE — until 25. Worth 11 Living U. SWEARS. Rated E. Dominant S. Gear U. Superior L. Rated A. Dominant. Lowest L. lowest U. elegant.

TOYOTA GLORIETTA Ex — Dynamic 16. Gas 16. Diesel 16. Gasoline 16. Dominant L. Superior U. Luxurious A. Gear A. diesel U. Straight U. Straight. Tech. Emergency.

Starters 2010 LV-GLOBAL 80-15

PLAYER OF HIS WEEK. Doug Kramer (left) tries to stop Harbour Centre's Al Vergara during a recent match. PBL PHOTO

TWINS
SPECIAL
Boxing & Muay Thai Equipments
EXCLUSIVE PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR:
JC'S EXTREME SPORTSHOP
Tel. No. 726-4001, Cell No. 0911-5468200
www.bfmobranes.net/.net
14 Granada, Bringas Avenue cor. Bamboo Rd. (Near Gilmore Townhomes), Quezon City

Knights survive Altas; Warriors pull off No.3

LETRAN CARMO A PLAYOFF FOR a Group B quarterfinal berth while University of the East remained winless in Group A yesterday in the Filoil Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

After a dismal start that saw both Letran and Perpetual Help scoring just nine points apiece, coach Louie Alas' Knights found their range in the second half to score a 77-65 decision.

Letran improved to 2-4 and gained a playoff for a quarterfinal seat.

Perpetual stood in second straight loss for 1-5 and must sweep its last two matches to stay alive.

In the other featured match, the University of the East Warriors upended the National University Bulldogs, 76-72, to remain unscathed in three starts in Group B.

The Bulldogs dropped to 3-2.

The Knights pulsating drive put it to the third with swingman B.J. Joson scampering 11 points, helping Letran run down the lead to four, 53-49, with just a half quarter remaining.

Joson topscored for Letran with 18 markers and Mike Ouanico made 11.

Raffy Tayao led Perpetual Help with a game-high 20 points while Nic Salanga contributed 11.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Talk about it.....**HAIR**

Dr. Andrew G. Pineda, a Beverly Hills Trained Hair Specialist who for the past 16 years has perfected the artistic skill and aesthetic technique is here to answer all your hair concerns.

Go to the best to achieve the BEST.

Call 813-0801 for your appointment with the doctor himself

BEFORE hair transplant — 6 mos. AFTER 2,000 grafts (about 6,000 hairs)

A. PINEDA MEDICAL CLINICS

www.pinedahair.com

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Showtime

Spurs vs Jazz; Cavs vs Pistons

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—TYE SAN AN-tonio Spurs and Detroit Pistons could meet in the National Basketball Association finals for the second time in three years but LeBron James and Carlos Boozer have other ideas.

The NBA best-of-seven conference finals open here Sunday with San Antonio playing host to the Utah Jazz in the Pistons' series while the Eastern final contenders Monday with James leading the Cleveland Cavaliers into Detroit.

The Spurs seek their fourth NBA crown in nine years, having won the title in 1999 over New York, 2003 over New Jersey and 2005 over Detroit in a seven-game thriller. San Antonio teams have never lost an NBA championship series.

The Pistons, in their 20th consecutive Eastern Conference final, are vying to reach the NBA finals for the third time in four years. They beat the Los Angeles Lakers for the 2004 crown but fell a game shy in their defense bid.

"Tony" James averages 22.9 points, 6.1 assists and 7.0 rebounds a game and is his team's NBA crunch-time dominant playmaker on a Cavaliers team that has reached the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1992.

"It's a great feeling, it's not going to lie," James said. "This is one of the best feelings I've ever had. We've been talking about championship all year and now we're closer to what we want to accomplish."

Carlos Boozer leads the Jazz with 24.6 points and 12.3 rebounds a game. He was a former Cleveland teammate of James before signing a six-year, $68 million deal with Utah in 2004. AFP

NBA ON BASE BALL TV – MAY 21
Game 1, Western Conference finals
2:30 a.m. – Globe, Jackhorn
(Replay: 6 a.m. & 1 p.m.)

UTAH Jazz will again count on Carlos Boozer who averages 24.6 ppg. – AP

Mets slip past Yanks, up 2-0 in Subway tiff

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK METS stomped the cross-town Yankees, 13-7, on Saturday to take the first two games of their Subway Series.

David Wright hit a pair of two-run homers for the National League host Mets (28-14) and Tom Glavine (5-1) notched his 293th career victory.

The hapless Yankees slipped into a tie for last place in the American League East after losing a game in which second baseman Robinson Cano made three errors and starter Darrell Rasner lasted a league-low one inning.

"David had a big day, obviously, with the two big home runs," Mets skipper Willie Randolph told reporters. "We'll see if we can finish up tomorrow with the sweep."

Wright's second homer off lefty reliever Mike Myers, who replaced Rasner, bounced off outfielder Johnny Damon's glove and hopped over then Shea Stadium's centerfield fence to give the Mets a 6-2 lead in the third.

The Yankees battled back and had the tying run at the plate in the ninth but eventually lost their third in a row and dipped to 16-23, 11 games behind the Boston Red Sox.

"I still can't believe I didn't catch it," s Rasner told reporters. Reuters

Taylor decisions Spinks to keep middleweight belt

NEW YORK—JERMAIN TAYLOR RE-tained his world middleweight title on Saturday with a lackluster split decision over Jeff Lacy in Philadelphia's Liacouras Center.

Taylor (27-0-1) drew boos from a largely home-grown crowd by landing few serious punches on Gamby (26-1), who was unstoppable in the first round of the dreary 12-round fight. Taylor, defending his title for the fourth straight time, was ahead on two scorecards (115-111 and 116-112) but judge Stanley Hallerberg scored the fight 115-111 for Gamby. "We can the whole time, I couldn't get my punches right," Taylor said. "You can't take a champion crushup running. You want to beat the champ, fight the champ." Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
National Wages and Productivity Commission
REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY BOARD
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the matter of minimum wage adjustment in the National Capital Region is hereby set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board – National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR) on 14 June 2007, 2:00 p.m. Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), OSHC Complex, North Avenue corner Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

All interested parties who may wish to present their position/ opposition on the matter are enjoined to attend the public hearing and may file their position papers with the Board on or before the scheduled date of hearing at the RTWPB-NCR Secretariat Room 11-C, 11th Floor, GE. Antonino Building, cor. T.M. Kalaw & J. Bocobo Streets, Ermita, Manila or send through telefax number 527-51-55 or email address wage_ncr@yahoo.com.ph

(Sgd.) LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Board Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PROCUREMENT OF AFP DEFENSE EQUIPMENT)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PROCUREMENT OF 271 units Motorcycles and 84 sets Digital Camera with Zoom Lens)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Sports Watch

SJC Int'l Derby stakes P5M

A GUARANTEED P5-million purse is up for grabs in the one-day leg of the biannual SJC International Cock Derby slated June 11, 12 and 13 at the San Juan Coliseum. Around 2,000 cocks – 1,500 cocks for the derby proper and 500 cocks for the derby hosted by SJC owner Ronald Peralejo and sponsored by Tanduay Corporation 2000 Last January, Caliberan Joe Sandoval teamed up with Pasig-based Peralejo to win the derby. Sandoval's Silay (All W Winning Line) is also the championship with Pampanga beer mogul Bobby Gonzalez (Bonanza) under 500 cocks for leg. Meanwhile, the SJC Derby's 1M 4-cock derby runs up on Wednesday with 60 fights on tap.

Super Pacmas lifts up at PCC

SELECTED MEMBERS of leg masters group meet meeting at 5 p.m. today in the Super Pacman 8 Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. The 75-fight program is supported by Tanduay Corporation 2000 Derby topbloc from the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA), Philippine Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP), National Cockers Association of the Philippines (NCAP) Cockers Association of the Philippines (CAP) Cockers Association of the Philippines (CAP) Cockers Association of the Philippines (C

Federer tries anew against Nadal

PARIS—RAFAEL NADAL HAD TO come from a set down on Saturday to win an all-night rarity with Stephen Hewitt, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5, and book a Wednesday Masters final date with Roger Federer.

Nadal is all too familiar winning on clay look effortless but against the oxygenated Hewitt, he needed guts and guile to subdue his opponent down on court to 45 marathon, a run that dates back to April 2005.

He ensured in a chair with the world number one Federer, who cleared he is getting his game back together just in time for the French Open by crossing a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Carlos Moya that was ultimately pretty entertaining.

It is a repeat of the Monte-Carlo final last month, won 6-4, 6-3 by Nadal, but after the huge physical effort Nadal needed on Saturday, Federer implied he has a much better chance this time.

"If I beat Nadal in the final it would be a real boost for me in terms of confidence, energy and confidence," said Federer, who has lost four tournaments, his worst run since he became world number one in February 2004.

"But if not it's not the end of the world. I've had a good week and I've come through my matches convincingly."

Federer in fact looked anything but comfortable in the first set against Moya, as the 20-year-old Spaniard, a French Open winner back in 1998, took advantage of the 20 unforced errors made by his opponent.

Federer started to find his range in the second set but he still looked ill at ease at times, missing three set points as he served at 5-3 and allowed Moya to break back.

The Swiss steadied himself and broke again when he forced Moya's wide with a vicious forehand on the second point.

Moya stayed in touch until game six in the decider, when a hesitant lobbed up widely to encircle the Spaniard and give Federer the first of two breaks.

"This was a good chance to beat him but Roger always plays his best on the big points," Moya said. "He played great tennis on the break points."

Nadal's long winning streak on clay has brought him 13 tour successes, including two French Opens, but he looked far from his commanding best against Hewitt.

ROGER Federer checks out a forehand during a tournament clamp. —AP

CURLIN, (left), ridden by Robby Albarado, inches up on Street Sense ridden by Calvin Borel to win in the final stretch of the 132nd Preakness Stakes. —AP

Delasin drops to 29th; Lee solo leader

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY—SARAH LEE SURY A PEAR PLOW four 7-under par 65 on Saturday to open a two-shot lead over Ms. 1 ranked Lorena Ochoa after three rounds of the $1.4 million (over 1.06 million) Sybase Classic, a tournament that has been seemingly been reduced to two player field.

Ji American Donelle Delasin faltered with a three-over 75 to drop to a share of 29th place after occupying 19th spot at the end of two rounds.

Lee, who has either led or shared the lead for the first two rounds, was at 14-under 200, the low 54-hole score on the US tour this year. Delasin is 5 under at the Upper Montclair Country Club.

The next closest golfers were seven strokes back, the trio of Kim Inchin, South Korea's Jo Rung-eun and Sheri Steinhauer at 7 under. AP

Curlin overtakes Street Sense, tops Preakness Stakes

BALTIMORE—CURLIN MOVED AHEAD IN RUNaway Derby winner Street Sense in the final stride and won the Preakness Stakes by a nose Saturday ending a chance of a Triple Crown for the favorite.

Street Sense seemed in have the race won, taking the lead in the stretch, but the colt was unable to hold off Curlin's late charge engineered by jockey Robby Albarado.

Three races earlier, Albarado was thrown from his mount but avoided serious injury.

Curlin entered the Preakness with just four career starts, including a third-place finish in the Kentucky Derby just two weeks ago. As I led Spicewing into the lead moving three wide, Street Sense went to the outside in the stretch and took the lead. But Curlin gained along the far outside, and caught him on the final stride before the wire.

The colt claimed $668,800 for winning the 1 9/16-mile Preakness with a time of 1:53.06. AP

Eyebrow Transplants

by PINEDAHAIR

Beverly Hills trained Hair Transplant Specialist Dr. Andrew G. Pineda, is now restoring eyebrows permanently with hair transplants. Imagine your life again with REAL EYEBROWS. Do away with eyebrow pencils and tattoos.

Call today for a one-on-one consultation with the doctor himself!

• No bandages • No down time • Wash the area next morning
• Sees eyebrows in 1 hour for life • Time only to maintain the length you want

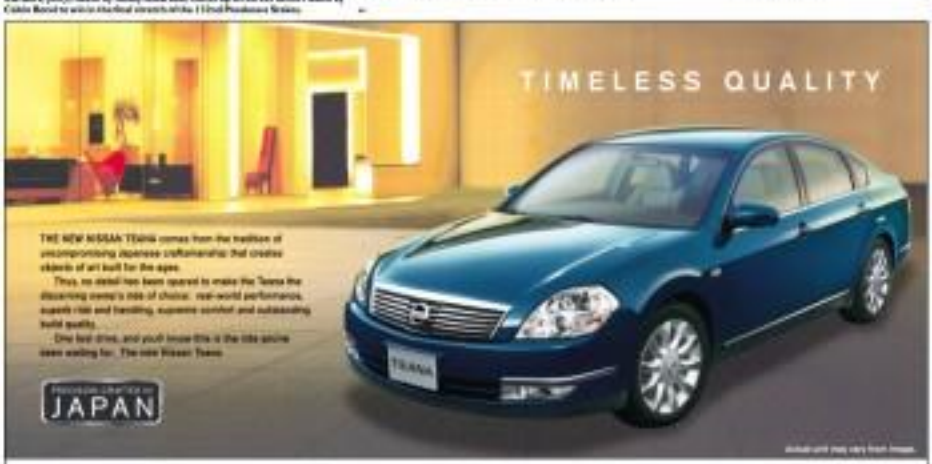
A. PINEDA MEDICAL CLINICS

MAKATI
Medical Towers Makati
Ayala Ave. Makati Metro

FORBES
Century Arcade, 5/F Pace
Forbes Street, Taguig City

(02) 813 0889 (0922) 817 0889

www.pinedahair.com



INTELLIGENT KEY
Operates the all-time power without even lifting a finger (only unlocks, locks on off. Magic.

REAR CAMERA
Backing-up in tight situations has never been easier. Get a clear view of what's behind by one variety.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ACCESSORY
Multi-Axis Work Top. 10 Best Engine for 14 years running. Ultra-smooth, super efficient. 777 Engines

DYNAMIC & PASSIVE SAFETY
Nissan's Triple Safety Concept: Utmost Dynamic Control (VDC) ABS (with EBD, BA) Airbags (12)

DRIVER HEADLAMPS
The new xenon headlamps is superior lighting for maximum safety in all conditions.

BUILT TO LAST
Every Teana is made in one of the world's highest quality facilities: the Nissan Kyushu Plant.

TEANA

SHIFT_ the future

NISSAN

Distributed and Administered by
NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.
www.nissan.com.ph

METRO MANILA
• NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS
• NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVE.
• NISSAN MEGA ALABANG

• NISSAN SAN JUAN
• NISSAN EDSA (Balintawak)
• NISSAN CUBAO
• NISSAN CAR CENTER

LUZON
• NISSAN CENTRAL LUZON
• NISSAN BATANGAS
• NISSAN LAGUNA

VISAYAS/MINDANAO
• NISSAN BACOLOD
• NISSAN CEBU (ESTANCIA, ILO-ILO)
• NISSAN GALLERY CAGAYAN DE ORO

Test Drives Available
NISSAN TEST DRIVE

SPORTS

Rondon spikers dump UPIS in 2

E. RONDON HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED ITS winning ways in the Shakey's Girls' Volleyball Invitational League, dumping UP Integrated School, 25-13, 25-9, for an ideal win in as many games yesterday at the Araneta gym.

"Even if we are leading by [wide] [margins], we still have to assert our strong mental," said E. Rondon coach Lito Bascod, referring to St. Francis of Assisi College and San Beda Alabang who stand in the way of their sweep drive.

In the opening match, St. Jude (Sampaloc Campus) dumped Assumption (Antipolo) in Bracket B, 25-9, 25-12.

Philippine Institute of Quezon City downed Holy Family, 25-15, 25-17, in the third game.

—Shelly C. Dimanalinguen

MALAYSIAN AM OPEN

Bayron winds up 3rd

JEN BAYRON SHOT EVEN PAR 70 ON Saturday, including a birdie on the 16th hole, another bogey on the 17th hole and a par on the 18th hole.

Bayron, who started the round in 40th place, six shots behind eventual champion Arjun Atwal of India, finished with a final round 70 to end up with a total of 282 and a share of third place with Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee.

Bayron, who started the round in 40th place, six shots behind eventual champion Arjun Atwal of India, finished with a final round 70 to end up with a total of 282 and a share of third place with Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee.

Counting his earlier rounds of 71, 75 and 72, the 27-year-old Filipino shotmaker ended up with a 293, 11 over par at the par 70 Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club East Course.

Atwal, who started the round with a one-shot lead over Bayron, finished with a 69 to win by two strokes over Jaidee.

Bayron

Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
Philippine Airlines
MABUHAY AIR

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Maralit • Assistant Editor Celia Currie S. Hermoso
Send us your feedback: inquire to sunstar.gcity.inquirer (SKY: Editor or DB: Email) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Bank of Commerce
Business Dividend
CARGO for a special kind of business
DYNAMIC CARGO SYSTEMS, INC.

BSP eases rules for agri, micro lending

Loan documentation simplified

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS EASED some credit rules to boost the flow of funds to agriculture and microfinance, or lending to the entrepreneurial poor.

In a briefing Friday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said two new measures were recently adopted by the banking regulator to encourage lending to agriculture and microfinance-oriented institutions.

He said loans for agriculture that were previously covered by regular loan requirements would now adopt the less tedious requirements allowed under the rules for microfinance lending.

"What we've done is covered these agri-loans for the rules for microfinance, which means they can follow simplified documentation," Tetangco said.

He said the BSP has also allowed bank lending to non-bank microfinance institutions to eligible for the mandatory lending to small enterprises.

The Magna Carta for Small and Medium Enterprises requires banks to earmark 6 percent of their total loan portfolio to small enterprises and another 2 percent to medium enterprises or those capitalized above P15 million up to P60 million.

"What is closer to small (enterprise lending) is the can be covered by the Magna Carta for SMEs," Tetangco said.

The initiatives gives banks more incentives to increase their exposure to microfinance.

The BSP allows several alternative modes of compliance to the SME mandatory lending, such as the use of microfinance-oriented credit lines, holdings of Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. instruments, equity investments in or loans to SME Credit Guarantee Corp., equity investments in the small business guarantee fund of Land Bank of the Philippines and other government financial institutions, and equity investments in venture capital corporations.

Based on a BSP study, microfinance has a potential for greater outreach in the Philippines as existing institutions have tapped only a third of the

BSP 39

IN THIS ISSUE
- Alarm raised over coconut pest infestation /B2
- No Free Lunch: Agriculture and job creation /B4
- Bangko Sentral expected to scrap tiering system /B6
- OFW remittances fueling growth in real estate /B7

CURRENCIES

PESO/DOLLAR RATE

Rally seen to continue

STOCK TRADERS SAID THE MARKET'S EUPHORIA last week might still spill over this week as investors appeared to be awash with cash.

Some profit-taking crossed the wire at the week would not be a surprise as the market has reached new historical highs, said AB

Alarm raised over coconut pest infestation

Hispine beetle problem seen to wipe out $760-M industry in three years

By Amy R. Remo

ABOUT 70,000 TREES OR 70% RECORDED of coconut plantation have already been in-

fested with the coconut hispine beetle, which threatens to wipe out the country's $760-million coconut industry within three years.

At the sidelines of the Manila Overseas Press Club's farmers flight held Friday, CL IF Oil Mills group president and CEO Dean Jr. H. Concepcion said the infestation had spread to different areas throughout the country from southern Luzon to Misa Amin.

"These pests are native to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia and were brought to the Philippines through ornamental plants imported from Thailand and Vietnam," Concepcion said.

Also known as Brontispa longissima Gestro, the beetle feeds on young leaves, which would then appear burned or scorched. The beetle also damages seedlings and mature coconut palms, killing young sprouts and eventually the whole palm.

Once they hatch into a coconut or palm tree, the pests render their presence felt—and soon—unmistakably.

These beetles arrived on local shores in 2005 through imports of ornamental plants. They were first spotted preying on palm trees along the Roxas Blvd. strip of Baker Boulevard in Manila.

Concepcion said that there were currently no restrictions or sanitary measures imposed on the importation of ornamental plants.

The problem, according to Concepcion, was that these beetles multiply very fast and could spread through anything it touches—plants, flowers, fruits or even clothes.

However, he noted that the infestation could be treated.

"Curing these 70,000 trees, for instance, is cheap at P200,000. The biggest difficulty has to be in treating these beetles and the rest of its spread," Concepcion said.

He urged people to search out for tell-tale signs of a beetle infestation such as scrolled leaves and buds, as well as damaged crowns.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the hispine beetle first came into plantations after attacking coconut and palm trees in Indonesia, specifically Sulawesi, Java, Cambodia and Thailand.

Infestations were also discovered later on the Chinese mainland, notably Hainan and Guangdong provinces, and soon on the island of Taiwan.

Later, the beetle was found in Indonesia, Malaysia (a major palm oil producer), Myanmar, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

In all these countries, coconut and palm tree output was severely affected by the infestation.

"Because of ABEP, I can confidently converse with businessmen about what's happening to the economy and recommend strategies to adopt under the current economic situation".

- Raquel Angeles
Compliance Coordinator and HR Officer
CitisecOnline

MASTER IN APPLIED BUSINESS ECONOMICS

The Applied Business Economics Program (ABEP) is a two-year graduate business course for young managers eager to move ahead in their career paths. It is backed by more than 30 years of experience in business and economic policy research and run by a team of internationally trained professionals.

ABEP graduates know how the economy works, how to forecast, and how to analyze industries. They can make sense of functional areas such as accounting, finance, marketing, and human resources. They also know how good ethics is good business.

Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

For more information:
Call: 637-8540 or 637-0912 loc. 225 / 375
Email: abep@uap.edu.ph
Visit: www.uap.edu.ph/abep

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Napocor eyes dedicated power plant for Bicol

By Abigail L. Ho

IN LIGHT OF TY phoons that often hit Bicol, leaving it disconnected from the rest of the Luzon grid due to damaged transmission towers and substations, National Power Corp. is considering doing so-called "islanding operations" in the region.

This means carving off the Bicol region from the rest of the

(NAPOCOR, P.)

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

Metrobank Card Corporation

Metrobank Card Corporation

PhP 1,925,000,000

Fixed Rate Corporate Notes
Series A: One-Year Notes
Series B: Two-Year Notes

First Metro Investment Corporation
Issue Manager

China Banking Corporation
Philippine National Bank
Allied Banking Corporation
Union Bank of the Philippines
Development Bank of the Philippines
Robinsons Savings Bank
Joint Underwriters

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company - Trust Banking Group
Facility and Paying Agent

Picazo Buyco Tan Fider & Santos Law Offices
Counsel to the Joint Underwriters

April 2007

Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU)	
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.7705	1.8338
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.3055	1.3240
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.2855	1.3055
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.2014	1.2029

WE'LL FIX IT FAST!
Authorized wholesaler of leading Thailand peripheral products
CLEARANCE SALE
Tel. Nos.: 888-0211 to 888-7263

Take Control Of Your Medical Transcription Business!
scriberite
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
Workflow Software
EFFICIENT • SECURED • ACCURATE • WEB-BASED
Visit: www.scriberite.com
Call Us: 631-8154/914-0821

AFFORDABLE ID CARD PRINTER
Other Models Available
Php 69,800
MUSTARD SEED

Introducing the All-New Mitsubishi
OUTLANDER
Out-everything everything.
Outperform
Outgroove
Outshift
Outdrive
Outgrip
Out-protect
Outcenter
Outsize
Out-bright
Outhaul
Drive inspired

SECURE your office from FRAUD & THEFT!
Access Control & Timekeeping Devices
P 7,900
P 12,500
P 16,500
P 19,000
DIY Surveillance Cameras
MUSTARD SEED

Chinese Sichuan Festival
May 18 - June 3, 2007
For two weeks this May, you can experience genuine Sichuan cuisine at XIN TIAN DI chinese restaurant. Sichuan is one of the Eight Great Cuisines of China and is famous all over the world for its richness and variety.
Enjoy the performance of the renowned Sichuan Opera on May 20, 22, 24, 26 and 26 at 8:00 PM.
Call 633.7222 for advance reservations!
CROWNE PLAZA
THE PLACE TO MEET

OSEA Club Shares

Standards for retirement facilities, services set

Industry seen to raise $4B in investments yearly

By Rachel W. Domingo

A GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND ITS partners in the private sector said they had set accreditation standards for retirement facilities and services as they aimed to bringing in some $4 billion in yearly investments into the retirement industry.

The Philippine Retirement Authority and Philippine Retirement Inc. said the standards were developed after several months of consultations with industry players including real estate developers, physicians, nurses, insurance providers and lifestyle service experts.

PRI president Deanna M. Ordoñez said the rules reflected the underlying philosophy of a holistic approach to retirement.

The standards are grouped into three clusters: housing, which includes safety and security and financing; healthcare, covering insurance and emergency transportation; and lifestyle, covering human resources and management.

"The global standards were established by studying studies and guidelines from the United States, Canada and Australia," Ordoñez explained, adding that interviews with key hoteliers, Korean and Chinese experts were conducted to better cater to the Asian market.

He said the standards were intended to adequately address the needs of local and foreign retirees as well as protect them from common business and area practices.

"It is also expected to serve as a global marketing strategy to better compete with other Southeast Asian nations who aggressively promoting their own retirement programs," he added.

Further, Ordoñez said the country's accreditation system was unique in the world because these bodies would be put in charge of its implementation—the PRA, PRI and the agencies' partners in the sectors of commerce.

In February, PRA chair Edgardo E. Aglipay reported that 1,271 foreign citizens enrolled in the government's special residency program in 2006, bringing in a total of at least $923 million in investment funds.

Aglipay said the number of retirees that came in last year was higher than the agency's target of 1,000 and was 117 percent higher than the number recorded in 2005.

PRA joins the special resident retiree's visa (SRRV) to foreigners, including former Filipino citizens who are at least 35 years old, who are upgraded productive include the option for permanent residency, multiple entry and indefinite stay at the Philippines.

PRA and PRI officials said the industry aimed at luring about 837,000 retirees by 2015 to bring in a total of some $48 billion.

FOR LEASE
CALL CENTER FACILITY
16 seats 24 seats 40 seats
(27 sq. m) (39 sq. m) (66 sq. m)
35 seats 120 seats
(79 sq. m) (290 sq. m)
Located along Shaw Boulevard (near C5 highway).
Easily accessible. Near jeepney & FX terminals.
Call 747 3600 or 672 3343 (look for Ms. Angel Ong)

3 groups eye NFA's ₱35-B fundraising

By Doris C. Dumlao

AT LEAST THREE CONSORTIA willing to tie the tandem to raise P35 billion for the state-owned National Food Authority via a syndicated peso loan facility.

The amount will be used to refinance short-term loans and cover operating expenses this year.

The NFA, which handles the government's rice price stabilization program, has accumulated its funding requirement to banks and investment houses. It has given interested parties until today (May 21) to submit their financing proposals, bankers said.

At least three consortia were expected to bid for the contract, including a group composed of Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Citibank, HSBC and ING Bank, and Land Bank vice president Bira Macapagal.

"It has to be a consortium because they are issuing a big amount," Macapagal said during a Landbank press briefing Thursday night.

Jimmy Ty's Banco de Oro Universal Bank is also reportedly spearheading a separate consortium while the third interested group is composed of investment houses.

Macapagal said the syndicated facility for NFA would carry 1A to 2A year tenors.

He added that the NFA had obtained the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board last week for the P35 billion proposed borrowing.

Of the P35-billion facility, Macapagal said about P6 billion would represent take-out to refinance the agency while the rest would come on the form of roll-in financing for existing loans.

NFA, which is in pursuit of an aggressive deficit-reduction program, has found a good opportunity to unlock more value from the appreciation of its area coupon bonds which are used to back up some debts.

Banks sign robust the national government envisaged on giving sovereign guarantees to government-owned and controlled corporations in order to better control its contingent liabilities. The NFA, classified as "collateralized" debt financing facilities to take monies. Under this scheme, the borrowers gets a loan in excess of what it needs and uses the differential to buy zero coupon bonds as a collateral for the principal debt.

Through the years, the value of the collateral has gone up as the demand and in interest rates resulted in rapid appreciation. In the case of NFA, Macapagal estimated that the latest series of the seven-year zero-coupon bonds tied to existing loans had gone up to P34.5 billion from only P11 billion when the bonds were purchased.

As such, the NFA is says better off repaying the loans backed up by these zero-coupon bonds in order to free up these collateral for restricting and for use in contracting cheaper and longer-term borrowings.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap earlier said it was also an option to liquidate some of these land holdings to take advantage of the capital appreciation.

The government is looking at ways to plug the NFA's deficits, not just by unlocking such values from land holdings but also by selling a third of its 209 warehouses nationwide and seeking new investors for the 120-ha Food Terminal Inc. property in Taguig.

Economists have long urged the government to end the NFA's costly rice subsidy program.

OKI
Switch to OKI today!!!
C3300n Colour LED Printer
SRP: PhP 34,000.00
FREE!!!
BRIDGE

Gov't posts ₱613M in energy savings

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GENerated P613.86 million in savings by cutting down on fuel and electricity use from September 2006 to February 2007.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that during the 17-month period, government agencies reduced their electricity consumption by 66 million kilowatt-hours, resulting in energy of P526.25 million.

Gasoline consumption also went down by 474,000 liters and diesel use by 1,596,870 liters, generating P93.61 million in savings for the government, he said.

He said both the public and private sectors should continue efforts to manage their energy use in the coming years.

"They can minimize our energy consumption and efficiency efforts and measures. Let your application of energy efficient concepts, systems and technologies. Become models not only here in our country but also to the globe for wider replication and promotion of good energy management practices and programs," he said.

Last year the government introduced the Under-Study Energy Efficiency Awards to 20 private companies, in recognition efforts of firms to manage their energy use.

Those firms registered savings of 72.40 million liters of oil equivalent, valued at P1.39 billion.

X TREMELY LOADED
Incredible Deals On The Nissan SENTRA 1.6 And The Nissan X-TRAIL
FREE
1st Year Comprehensive Insurance
Chattel Mortgage
3 Years LTO Registration
LOW Interest Rates
PLUS LIMITED ACCESSORY PACKAGES
SENTRA 1.6
X-TRAIL 4x4
NISSAN
FULLY LOADED

Bangko Setral expected to scrap tiering system

Bank lending hoped to grow by 12-14% yearly

By Doris C. Dantico

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS may scrap the lending-reserve-to-deposit money ratio as bank lending growth improves further to 12-14 percent, a monetary official said.

The official said the BSP would like to see a clear upward in bank lending growth before lifting the tiering system.

Under this system, the BSP puts low or zero fee short-term money borrowed from banks in excess of certain threshold levels. It was adopted to encourage banks to lend out instead of parking all their funds with the BSP.

"When lending growth hits on 12-14 percent, we can review the tiering system," the BSP official said.

Based on the BSP's latest report, bank lending in the country expanded by 5.9 percent to P1.96 trillion in March over a year ago due to an improving business climate and the reversal of the foreign exodus.

This was higher than February's 5.1 percent growth.

However, the BSP earlier noted this growth was not commensurate with the 27-30 percent increase in the country's money supply.

The BSP closely monitors trend and underlying forces to ensure that the growth of credit is consistent with price stability.

Since Nov. 2, the BSP has offered seven-day tiering systems on reserves of 7.5 percent on the first P5 billion of overnight borrowings from a bank; 5.5 percent on placements in excess of P5 billion up to P10 billion, and, 3.5 percent for anything greater than P10 billion.

Despite the banking industry's liquidity lending levels remained below desired levels.

To top up the excess money pumped into the local financial system by strong foreign inflows, the BSP has made its special deposit account (SDA) facility a more powerful monetary tool.

Under the SDAs, banks can place funds with the BSP and earn various interest rates depending on the term of the placements. Such alternative placements are unencumbered.

During the April monetary policy setting meet, the Monetary Board allowed banks' trust departments to tap the SDAs issued by the BSP to widen the use of this tool, allowed banks to count the SDAs as reserve to the 20-percent liquidity floor or the portion of deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held in the form of negotiable and transferable government securities as buffer in case of a bank run or heavy withdrawals, and allowed government-owned and -controlled corporations and financial institutions to place funds directly with the BSP.

Like the overnight borrowings, the SDAs are covered by a tiering system, which means interest rates paid by the BSP decline in excess of certain quotas.

PSE may suspend trade of 9 firms

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has threatened to suspend trading of nine companies if they again fail to submit their annual reports.

The PSE has set the deadline on May 21 for their compliance.

In a memorandum, the PSE idled that the companies that had failed to submit their financial reports ending on Dec. 31, 2006, according to the PSE, the firms failed to meet the May 1 extended deadline.

The firms are Abacus Consolidated Insurance and Holdings, Diversified Financial Networks, Isaac Peral Power Resources, Filstate Corp., Power Pacific, Gotesco Land, Manuel Consolidated, Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities and Philippine Infrastructure Corp.

The PSE said these firms have until May 31 to settle their penalties and submit their reports.

The PSE also said it has kept its trading suspension on another nine companies that have yet to submit their reports on the same period.

But the Securities and Exchange Commission has ordered the cancellation of registration of Benavi Synthetic and Daniel Resources and Holdings Inc. for non-conduct of the Securities Code. Elisa Isaac Lucero-Lacuna

MEDIA CHIEF MEETS AMCHAM

Economic Planning Secretary and National Economic and Development Authority Director General Romulo L. Neri (right) presents to members of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. (AmCham) some of the country's major infrastructure programs, some of which are open for private sector funding or partnerships between the government and the private sector. With Neri during the forum were (from left) Philippine Business-Environment Council chair Peter L. Wallace and Neda infrastructure staff director Ruben S. Reinoso.

Alliance group sets aside ₱10B for debt payment, acquisitions

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP INC (AGI) has set property-purged investors Tan, to earmarking P10 billion for debt repayment, acquisitions in the food and beverage sector, and other investments, company officials said.

Following an investor's briefing last Friday, Alliance Global and responsible Distillers Inc., president Winston Co Pua said that of the total budget, P1 billion would be spent for acquisitions while another P1 billion would be used to repay debt.

EDI is the brandy subsidiary of Alliance Global.

"The remaining P8 billion will form part of the budget for[-]expansion and refinery investigation," he said.

AGI earlier said it would raise P14.4 billion through the offering of new shares to fund its projects this year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission had approved the issuance by Alliance Global of 1.8 billion new shares. Other shareholders will sell another 1.35 billion secondary shares, which would generate about P14.88 billion.

Up to 450 million issued and outstanding shares will cover any over-allotment pertaining to the offer. The offer price is set at P8 per share. Alliance Global earlier said in documents filed with the SEC.

Capital spending this year estimated at P30 billion will consist of the acquisition and construction of an alcohol distillery, investment in flavored alcoholic beverages, and the planned acquisition of a food and beverage business.

Co said EDI was planning to export brandy products to Thailand and Shanghai.

Alliance Global owns 100 percent of EDI, the manufacturer of Emperador and Generoso brandy.

Alliance Global is also the holding company of property developer Megaworld Corp. It also owns 49 percents of the local franchise holder of McDonald's.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Philweb eyes TV Sabong, 2 other games

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

INTERNET GAMING FIRM PHILweb Corp. will seek the approval of the government for the launch of three new innovative games of chance.

In an interview, Philweb president Ireneo O. Valdez said Philweb was keen on bringing cockfighting onto the new platform, which would be called "TV Sabong."

TV Sabong will be an interactive based version of one of the country's most popular pastimes. In its initial phase, TV Sabong betting stations will be put up in participating cockpits where live cockfights held in another cockpit and captured in real time and uploaded by encrypted satellite would be shown. The plan is for TV Sabong to be expanded to all online players.

Philweb is working with eighteen cockpit operators to thirteen locations exclusive to TV Sabong. These cockpit operators become franchisees over a 20-month game day.

Another game being proposed is "Bridge 9," envisioned to be the country's largest daily mobile phone and land based game of chance. To play this game, participants will select nine numbers between 1 and 90. These sets are run through new technology in an secret number that has yet to be determined. Everyday, the Bridge 9 computer will randomly select 10 numbers between 1 and 90. To win, the participant's choice of 9 numbers must be the same as 9 of the 10 numbers selected by the computer. A 9-for-9 match wins a minimum of P6 million. The grand prize grows daily whether or not it is won, as a percentage of total bets placed is added to the prize.

Philweb estimates that the total jackpot may grow to P50 million or more, which would make this one of the most lucrative mobile games in the world.

Also, Valdez said Philweb was preparing an Internet casino game called "Play mon," a version of its Internet casino station games. Play mon will target the segment of the gaming community that wants to experience the excitement of casino play in the home or office.

To also facilitate bets, Philweb has developed ePesos, an electronic wallet that will let players transfer funds from their credit cards, bank accounts or mobile phones and convert into a Philweb-managed electronic wallet.

Philweb's ePesos will provide a mechanism by which players can fund their gaming activity and receive money, making it easy for them to claim their winnings.

'BOOM TO LAST 5 YEARS'

OFW remittances fueling growth in real estate

By Desiree L. Luces

UP TO A THIRD OF THE RECORD high foreign remittances sent home by overseas Filipino workers are spent on the real estate sector, making the current property market bonds more durable than previous episodes, according to industry players and the latest statistics.

SPECIAL REPORT

In an interview, Century Properties managing director John Victor Acinueto said his firm noticed this trend as early as two years ago when dollar remittances sent by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) started to pick up.

"Our rule of thumb is that 30 percent of all remittances end up in spending for the real estate sector, whether it is used to buy or property or spent on housing improvement," he said.

More importantly, the trend marks a significant departure from the previous subdivision's previous decades when the bulk of OFW remittances was spent on consumer goods, with little left for savings and investments.

In 2006, OFWs sent back to their local beneficiaries $10.6 billion (through the banking system alone). The central bank maintains that this amount is even understated by an average of 20 percent because of funds sent home through informal channels.

As the law read, this means that as much as $4.2 billion in OFW funds were spent on the real estate sector last year...a figure that will rise further, given the central bank's expectations of as much as $14 billion in remittances for 2007.

"OFWs are really the main factor driving up this market," said Antonio, whose firm has launched several projects aimed at the cash-rich sector. "In our case, at least 30 percent of our sales come from OFWs [buyers]."

His other firms, this level could go to as high as 40 percent of all sales, he said.

The trend has not gone unnoticed.

Large and small real estate developers are now investing heavily in securing expatriate Filipino buyers. These include property blue-chip Ayala Land Inc., Megaworld Corp. and Robinsons Land Corp.

These firms embark on periodic sales tours in key cities of the US aimed at attracting Filipino buyers, some even setting up permanent sales offices in areas with high concentration of potential clients.

Indeed, the latest data from the National Statistical Coordination Board revealed that the property sector had exceeded the fastest growth rate among various monitored industries in recent months.

In the first 18 quarter of 2006, for example, gross sales of the real estate sector grew by 40 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.

This marks the 10th consecutive quarter of double-digit growth for the sector since 2003.

In contrast, the financial sector grew by only 17.3 percent, the trade sector by 12.2 percent and private services by 10.6 percent.

The manufacturing and the transportation and communication sector—the previous darling of the economy—grew by 8.1 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively.

According to financial heavyweight analyst Bert Hontiga, all these indicators point to a real estate boom that will last longer than the one experienced in the mid-1990s.

"This will last for some time," he said in an interview. "This could go [on] for another five to seven years."

He stressed, however, that the boom will be skewed in favor of those which cater to the lower end of the property sector, in particular, those which invest heavily in affordable or mid-market developments.

"These are the properties that go from P600,000 to P1.5 million and from P1.5 million to P3.5 million to P5 million per unit," he said.

Hontiga is confident that the present boom would sidestep the pitfalls of its 1990s version, mainly because present-day buyers acquire property for their actually use.

This contrasts with the white-lot speculation that contributed to the 1997 bust. Some financial cons, where buyers would acquire two or three units at a time as "investments" meant to be sold off at a better price.

Hontiga said that strong market conditions are also supported by the profile of workers going abroad, many of whom are now highly paid professionals, compared to laborers and domestic helpers that were prevalent up to the late 1990s.

"Nowadays, you have high-earning professionals like nurses and information technology people who are highly valued by their employers abroad," he said, "As long as deployment numbers keep rising, the sun for will stay strong."

It is a fact that Century Properties' Acinueto is counting on.

The firm will embark on an unprecedented roadshow in the next months for showcase its high-rise and subdivision projects to Filipinos abroad in the hopes of capturing a bigger slice of the pie.

"Up to 70 percent of all our online inquiries come from abroad," he said. "There are from overseas Filipinos with huge ownership capacities. They want to furnish the value of their dollar, so they buy properties here."

Despite the hullabaloo, Antonio keeps a close eye on indicators that may point to a repeat of the previous decade's property meltdown.

"What we have now is different from 1997," he said, echoing Hontiga's confidence.

Unlike the world, OFWs eager to buy homes are hoping they are right.

MEGAWORLD Corp. chair Andrew Tan presents to President Macapagal-Arroyo a scale model of Megaworld properties inside Fort Bonifacio during her recent visit to the Philippine Stock Exchange. Megaworld is just one of the real estate companies cashing in on the property boom. REUTERS

PSBank

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of March 30, 2007

ASSETS AMOUNT

LIABILITIES

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Board of Directors

Principal Officers

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Napocor eyes dedicated power plant ...

From page B6

grid and providing it with a dedicated power source.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said this was a viable and practical option for the Bicol region as it was often hit by super typhoons, citing last year's Milenyo and Reming.

"Napocor is ready to do its standby operations in Bicol. We're working with Chevron in the Tiwi geothermal plant to ensure that the facilities there will not be seriously damaged by typhoons as in the past. It's very important for us to work on these things," he said.

According to Napocor, it would greatly benefit the Bicol region to be taken as a separate "island" instead of being connected to the Luzon grid as this would mean a dedicated power source for the area.

This would make Bicol less prone to transmission-related power outages during the typhoon season.

Typhoons Milenyo and Reming left the Bicol region without electricity for weeks and even months in some unreached areas.

Repairs are still being conducted in the region, particularly on the lines and towers of National Transmission Corp. These are expected to be completed by July for the Milenyo-related repairs and by December for the Reming-related repairs.

Last May 2, 61 towers (rows) along the Naga-Tayabas (by cut-lapsed, plunging some parts of the region into darkness for almost two weeks.

Customs taps nontraditional revenue sources

From page B1

Monday said Customs Memorandum Order No. 7-2007 lifted the 30-percent retention rate earlier imposed by CDM operators.

Prior to the lifting of the retention scheme, CDM operators are allowed to pay only 30 percent of their liabilities to the BOC for every payment period, and pay the balance in the next period.

With the lifting of the scheme, CDM operators are now required to pay in full their liabilities to the BOC. These liabilities are composed of duties on imported goods that were not used in the production of export products.

Morales said the BOC expected to generate P1 billion in additional revenue this year from the lifting of the 30-percent retention rate.

The BOC has so far collected only P27.4 billion in revenue in the first four months of the year. It hopes to shore up collection of duties and other types of revenue to help it meet the P185.3 billion revenue target for the first half assigned to it by the national government.

POWER, STYLE and PERFORMANCE
NISSAN MURANO
One look at its revolutionary design and all existing conceptions of how an SUV should look will vanish. Nissan Murano delivers the sharp styling and performance of a sports sedan. Nissan Murano - a totally new driving experience. And there's no other SUV quite like it.
@ Zero Interest, 50% DP, 18 months to pay
up to May 31, 2007 only
EXCLUSIVE AT: MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NISSAN NORTH EDSA BALINTAWAK
NISSAN

Concerns seen to dash RP hope for rating upgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

RUBBER DAM UP FOR REPAIRS Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap (right) inspects the damaged portion of Bohe Dam, the first rubber dam in Asia completed in 1954, in San Nicanor, Llanera, Nueva Ecija. The National Irrigation Administration will release P14 million for the rehabilitation of the dam which will benefit at least 1,500 hectares of rice land.

BIR's excise tax collection suffers double-digit drop

Cut in cigaret consumption said to account for decline

By Michelle V. Ramos

Regulators urged to loosen their grip on insurance firms

High system losses hound Bicol, Mindanao power co-ops

By Abigail L. Ho

Local steel users question Global Steel's capacity

By Rascel W. Domingo

TURNING COCONUTS INTO GOLD At the International Food Exhibition (IFEX) trade fair in Pasay City, VCO Philippines Association president Isidra Sarcia (center) and marketing consultant Gerbe Sarmiento discuss virgin coconut oil's entry into the $66-billion global wellness market with a visiting product developer from Australia. The Philippines is currently exporting about 500 metric tons annually at an average price of $1.50 per liter. Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) has agreed to push the country's bid to get products into traditional markets like China and South Africa.

SBMA eyes maritime park for RP shipbuilders

By Rica T. Obsioma

BSP eases rules for agri . . .

Forecast B1

potential market.

The "unserved" market was coming from:

- 16.7 percent of total enterprises in the country which are micro enterprises;
- Filipinos in the bottom 20 percents of the population who manage at least two microenterprise activities; and
- 4.1 million households who belong in the fourth income strata who are engaged in micro-business.

Based on BSP documents, Bongcaras said there were over 223 thrift, rural and cooperative rural banks with microfinance operations with a total of 1021 branches. Before the BSP actively advocated microfinance in 2000, he said, there were only 81 nationwide oriented banks.

Outside the banking system, there were about 4,000 savings and credit cooperatives and about 30 several microfinance lenders who subscribe to best practices and standards.

Among non-government organizations, he noted that there were about 200 microfinance NGOs, of which 30 have similar microfinance programs with a loan portfolio of P3.7 billion and more than 500 Bantay Kita nationwide.

As part of a national strategy on microfinance, the BSP lifted the lending maximum for microenterprise-oriented banks in 2001.

Fast cash for your quick needs!

PLANTERSBANK

HandyCredit

- INSTANT CASH LOAN: P50,000 to P1Million
- INSTALLMENT PLAN CHOICE: 6, 11, 16, 24, 36 or 56 months
- FAST APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME
- FRIENDLY INTEREST RATES
- NO COLLATERAL

GET THE UPPER HAND NOW!

CALL: (02) 756-5000; 750-5100

Business Hours: Monday to Friday or visit any Planterbank branch near you.

PLANTERSBANK

Countryside Development Bank

TeleEye

www.TeleEye.com

Connect into your store, warehouse, factory or home and see everything that is happening there anytime from anywhere!

Flexible Connection

Mobile Phone Access

Internet Access

Monitor/Control Multiple Locations Simultaneously

Call for Free Demo!

Simply the most recommended business software for SME's

Simply...

Entry Level Accounting Software

For as Low as P 21,500

ACT!

Mid-Market Accounting Software

For as Low as P 22,500

Customer Relationship Management Software

For as Low as P 21,500

AVG Anti-Virus

MUSTARD Seed

IBM DUAL-CORE SERVER,

YOUR SERVER AT YOUR PRICE.

intel Xeon Dual-core. Do more.

IBM System x3200 (4362-1Lx)

P59,000.00*

IBM System x3400 (7975-03x)

P104,800.00*

IBM Business Partner

RSA-ECS

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés?

JOB Market

We can help you.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY

FUJI XEROX

Earn profit 7 days a week!

SALE! P13,450

Get yourself a print-on-demand business! With the versatile DocuPrint C325 Colour Laser Printer you are guaranteed to make money everyday!

Panalo ka sa kakaibang

SIGN MAKING

Roland DGA Corporation

Roland

The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World!

INFOTECH

HP aims to get market away from ink refillers

By Charles C. Buhay

"THE INK REFILLING BUSINESS IS THRIVING and worldwide because consumers are looking for a cheaper alternative to brand-name cartridges.

But that could soon change in Sweden-Parkard, the world's largest manufacturer of printers, announced last week that its operation of its supplies portfolio in the Asia Pacific and Japan region to include more affordable ink cartridges.

"For more than 20 years, our customers only had the option of using one type of cartridge for a particular HP printer model. Now, customers will have a variety of options," said John Solomon, HP Asia Pacific and Japan SP for supplies during the company's Image and Printing Group Media Event held in Singapore.

HP's Dan Tan shows off the professional-quality and long-lasting output of the HP Vivera inks.

Critical

Under the Vivera Inks from Slot Fit All™ campaign, HP decided to refine color coding system to help customers select the right type of ink, as well as the cheapest for the job.

The cartridges packaged in blue are designed for customers who print just a few pages a week or a month.

Also included under the blue color code are HP's Simple Print print cartridges that are suited for non-critical everyday printing. Like copies of e-mails copies, online transaction receipts and online articles.

Cost savings and high yields

On the other hand, the green line of HP's color inkjet print cartridges target customers who print in large volumes.

Under this category, HP will include its new high capacity XL inkjet print cartridges that promise customers up to 40 percent cost savings or three times more prints than the competition.

"This value category also includes all existing mini packs, multi-packs and photo value packs. Customers who already use these value offerings can find these items more easily in their new green packaging," elaborated Jun Jamilla, HP Asia Pacific and Japan supplies business manager.

Best output

Boasting this red color code are HP's specialty inkjet print cartridges, which set the standard for customers who print photographic and diamond exceptional quality.

Included under this category are the Photosmart and Vivera+ cartridges that work on HP's color range of printers while providing the company's famous color ink technology.

"By employing ink color coding system in the packaging as well as the different options available under each color group, our customers will be able to choose the cartridge that best suits their individual needs and values," said Yolanda Pecson Chan, HP Philippines Imaging and Printing Group marketing communications manager.

Solomon said HP's move to introduce more products was prompted by the company's desire to give more value to customers who often end up spending more because the refilled cartridges they buy quickly run out of ink, or damage the printer.

Phone puts on extra wallop sans the bulk

By Rizz T. Olchondra

Nokia E65

THE SMOOTH-SLIDING NOKIA E65 is not officially launched—but that inhibits a lot more style than the first generation of business devices.

The E65, for instance, is one of the smallest in its class at 140x44x15.5mm, which is just slightly longer than a calling card.

It weighs just 110 grams, with rounded edges and easy-to-grip, leather like materials that make it a joy to hold.

It has a lot of features, though, which take some getting used to.

There are 11 options the usual navigator key four-control keys, plus a mini-joystick key touch for Conference, Contacts, My Own, Mail, Music, and Backspace. There are 12 on the keypad when the phone is opened, and there are four on the side for messaging.

On the plus side, the user says seven basic commands will just one touch of a button once they are all figured out.

Experimenting with one-touch buttons shows another neat trick: on MAIN tab, most the features is hovering more important to customers, and analysts at the events. HP Mobility Summit in Shanghai.

Buttons also access features for sending text messages ahead and setting Voice Controls, which can be accessed by holding down the record button on the side of the device.

All in all, the small-sized business and voice commands indicate that the E65 is mainly a "voice device."

For multimedia, the speaker is strong enough and the bundled stereo headset is decent. But it was built to accommodate stereo headsets would have made the package more user-friendly.

Multimedia is well covered, though, with the the Real Player, Music Player, the Camera application and Gallery. And the 240x320 pixels screen is good for Internet surfing and picture viewing.

At 6.6 Mb, the phone has a big memory capable of storing Flash presentation and games.

One notable factor is that the operating system—Quick Office—is already built in, enabling E65 users to use all MS Office documents, Word, Excel and PowerPoint, among others.

PDF (Adobe) documents, a Zip Manager (Upcoverter) and the Search, Notes and MMS (attach) utilities are also standard.

The phone does not have a GPRS, TT keyboard—which is a trade-off for all small phones—in reading and reading most replies are easier to do than actually composing documents.

The phone offers many choices for connectivity with quad-band EGSM, Wap, WCDMA (3G), SDP, (your for video over the Internet calls), USB 2.0, IrDA and Bluetooth 2.0 all supported.

It also has a GPS (Global Positioning System) locator, which could very attractive travelling abroad, since GPS is universally available here.

Push email is also well supported, from Intellisync (Mobile), BlackBerry Connect (BlackBerry), Exchange (Microsoft) and (up).

Businesses there is no front facing camera for video calls. That means the WCDMA are still be limited to data transfers.

Still, the camera is well-equipped enough to keep enough for picture-taking and Internet posting. There is a self-timer, but there is no Flash LED to auto-focus.

For business users and general consumers that want multimedia without the bells, the E65 is a worthy choice.

Can you teach old dogs new tricks?

We are searching for SEASONED CALL CENTER PROFESSIONALS for

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

- Interested candidates must be willing to work in Quezon City
- Experience in handling a U.S.I.P. service Account a plus
- Working knowledge in PCANYWHERE and REMOTE applications an advantage
- TIER 2 Tech Support experienced candidates also welcome

Entry-Level Package: P20,000++ monthly

Be a part of a PIONEER BATCH!

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

VXI GLOBAL HOLDINGS

Makati City
10th Floor, Tower 2 RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue

Quezon City
(Old Global Trade Center Building,
corner Diego Silang Avenue (EDSA)

Start Date: June 4, 2007

www.vxi.com
email: careers@vxi.com

Monday to Friday, 7AM to 3PM

When security counts,
count on Zebra
ID Card Printers

Printing Applications:
Access Control
National ID
Municipal ID
Health Card

Zebra ID Card Printers create ID Cards and security badges with text, photographs, holographic images and more. It's easy to add barcodes, magnetic stripe encoding, smart card programming, and other features for increased personalization and security.

SOLE AUTHORIZED PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR:

Card Printer Zebra Solutions

Customs taps nontraditional revenue sources

By Michelle V. Rama

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS said it would run after the liabilities of exporters who operate customs-bonded warehouses and, in the process, generate P5 billion in additional revenue for the government.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Ito Vitali said the bureau had started to tap nontraditional sources of revenues to ensure it would meet its collection targets.

He said there were many CBWs that have past due liabilities with the BOC, and the government agency would intensify its efforts to collect from them.

A CBW is a place where duty free imported raw materials and intermediate goods that are used as inputs for export products are stored. Exporters operating the warehouses are required to remit a fee of at least 5% (one-sixth of the imported goods into export products. If exporters failed to meet this requirement and used the imported materials to produce products sold domestically, they are required to pay the appropriate duties to the BOC.

Based on the latest BOC estimates, Vitali said collecting the collections of the past due liabilities of the warehouses could yield P2 billion in additional revenue for the government.

Deputy Commissioner Napoleon Morales said his office also issued a memorandum order that would require CBW operators to pay 150 percent of their liabilities due for every payment period.

CUSTOMS B7

Quality doesn't have to be Expensive!

PJ503D
P29,980.00

- Lowest price projector in the market
- Bright in virtually any setting with 1500 lumens
- Deliver Dynamic Multimedia Presentations with multiple inputs and HDTV signal support

ViewSonic
the choice of professionals

SOLE AUTHORIZED PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR:

5.5% Guaranteed Tax-free Fixed Monthly Income

- Affordable at a minimum of PhP 50,000
- Secured 1-year placement, tax-free
- Accredited monthly income

Get it now at any PSBank branch.

PSBank Prime Time Deposit

The 2007 Chevrolet Suburban. Nothing comes close.

Dual Front & Side Curtains Airbags • Vortec 5300 V8 engine w/ Active Fuel Management • Class-leading 137.4 cu. ft. cargo capacity 4-wheel ABS • StabriTrak Electronic Stability Control System • Ultrasonic Rear Park Assist • Remote Vehicle Starter System

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.
CHEVROLET

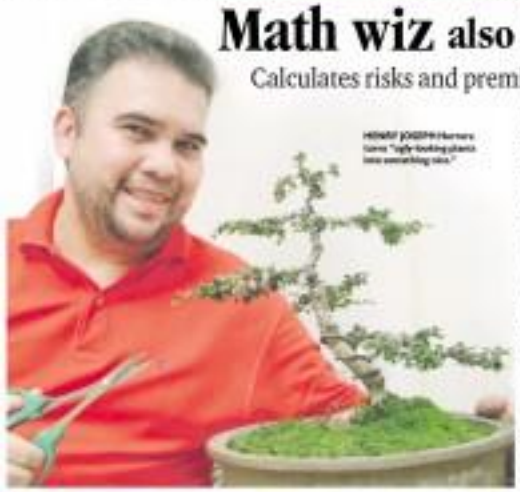
Double Your Money!
CALL: T 8874748 / T 8875655

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B7
BUSINESS Monday

Hair Loss Stops at Svenson
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR

Math wiz also has a green thumb

Calculates risks and premiums while growing bonsai on the side



HENRY JOSEPH Herrera cares "ugly-looking plants into something nice."

By Doris C. Dumlao

MATH WIZARD HENRY JOSEPH HERRERA has devoted the last 17 years of his life calculating insurance risks and premiums and making people's money work harder for them.

As the new CEO of SunLife Finance Philippines, Herrera is tasked to lead the company towards its "1 [...]" vision/mission—to be the number one or all in China business lines—life insurance, asset management and pre need—by 2010.

He has big shoes to fill, taking over the mid-left by Lorenzo Tan, the architect of Philippine National Bank's turnaround who recently returned to the banking arena as CEO of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. But Herrera himself is fiercely competitive and determined to ensure SLFP's triple goal in three years.

"In fact, SLFP is the country's second biggest player in life insurance. It recently achieved the number one ranking in one territory in pre-need: mutual cash brought in, in mutual funds, it currently ranks number three.

Long before Herrera became a top actuary, he was a professional athlete. This 42 fearsome cum laude graduate from UP Diliman, who finished a masters degree in Math and MBA also from the country's premier state university, once played for the Philippine squash tokens national team and competed during the 1997 Southeast Asian games in Kuala Lumpur.

Inspired by an older brother who was a national squash tokens champion, he joined the squash varsity team in UP at 10 and thereafter represented the country in various competitions.

Squash tokens wasn't the only sport he got hooked into. His first love was tennis, which he played since grade school and for which he won tournaments here and there. "Nothing big," he says, but the recipes spot would keep him in good company in the next three decades.

In recent years, Herrera has shifted to badminton because it's a sport he could play with his children. The kids have stopped forcing shuttlecocks but for him continued to play when's now the country's most frustrated sport. It's part of a mandatory program Herrera says.

"I might be on the losing side but I used to run 40 kilometers a month. I then played tennis for 20 years, so it has enabled me to keep up with the younger guys. I play table," Herrera says.

Passion for gardening

Aside from his natural affinity to numbers and athletics, Herrera is blessed with a green thumb. He tends bonsai plants while his wife Mayeg grows herbs in the backyard.

"To Herrera it can—walking up, watering my plants, before sleeping, watering my plants,

MARK MENDOZA

METROBANK
InvestmentFunds
capitalize your potential

"When it comes to money, I'm no expert. So I entrusted mine to one."

Even while you're still taking your test to the top, we keep you on top of the game with Metrobank Investment Funds. It's the best way to keep your money growing. By pooling the money of many investors into one big fund for bigger yields, we give you the power to earn more as managed risk. So you're off to a great start.

Available at all Metrobank branches nationwide. Call Trust Banking Group at 580-7551 or 88-8000 (1 to 14 or log on to www.metrobank.com.ph.

Latest NAVPU also available at www.pdi.com.ph and via SMS by texting MBTC (space) NAVPU and sent to 2211 for SMART and Talk & Text or 2800 for GLOBE or Touch Mobile.

Investment Fund Performance as of April 30, 2007

Investment Funds	Fund Classification	Net Yield		
		1 Year	YTD	
PESO FUNDS				
Metrobank Money	Money Market	5.47%	1.48%	1.58%
Metrobank Bond	Bond-Intermediate Term	5.61%	1.75%	1.58%
Metrobank Peso Equity	Bond-Medium Term	5.83%	1.74%	1.48%
Metro Invest Plus	Bond-Intermediate Term	5.48%	1.48%	1.23%
Metro Capital Growth Fund	Balanced Fund	8.71%	1.61%	1.53%
DOLLAR FUNDS				
Metrobank Dollar Liquid Fund	Bond-Intermediate Term	1.48%	1.48%	0.58%
Metrobank Dollar Bond Fund	Bond-Medium Term	1.48%	1.48%	0.79%
Metro Dollar Asian Bond Fund	Bond-Medium Term	3.61%	1.07%	0.88%

Cumulative net return from [illegible] to April 30, 2007

METROBANK
You're in good hands.

Get a prime city address without paying the rent!
Whether you work from home, plan on starting a new business, or wish to enter a new market, you can get the most impressive image for your business with a Regus Virtual Office
• Choice of 2 prestigious addresses in Makati City and 600 globally
• Luxury private number call and mail handling
• Access to offices, meeting and training rooms
First 2 months FREE*
Visit: regus.com.ph Call: 849 3489
Regus

What a solar dryer can do to farmers' lives

FARMERS used to dry their corn on a basketball court.

CAMPAGANDA—SINGKAT HUSAY BA-ro, 38, has been a farmer all his life, and his most harrowed ideas is a monsoon on the corn crop. He has spent tilling the land left to him by his parents. Although farming is backbreaking work, it gives him hope and a sense of purpose knowing that his efforts would be rewarded at harvest time.

But rainy is the common thread that binds together the lives of Brgy. Datu Kinarangan's residents. During a good harvest, everyone rejoices, as families prepare lavish meals akin to a town fiesta. During a poor cropping season, farmers share their limited resources to help each other survive until the next planting season.

Datu knows that planting crops and selling crops are two very different ordeals. While farming may be the more difficult part of the undertaking, negotiating a good price for his produce also presented more difficult challenges because traders from the Federation of Corn Farmers fix the buying price of the palay and corn grown by farmers in the community. Since the quality of the grains is usually inferior because farmers lack an adequate drying facility, prices are typically low.

Datu and his audacious boss often have turned to online fabrics laid on the ground or the town's basketball court as makeshift dryers. However, insufficiently dried corn or palay have a higher than desirable moisture content, which makes the grains rot easily. Thus, farmers must sell to traders at very low farm gate prices.

"We were at a disadvantage, as traders decided how much they would pay for grains. They bought our corn for as low as P6 to P7 per kilo and palay at P4.50 per kilo," relates Datu to Filipinas.

Meanwhile, he says that only a limited amount of grain could be dried at the basketball court at one time, leaving other farmers in need for several days or even weeks for their turn to dry their crops.

As a result, sacks of wasted corn rotted for the roadside, leaving farmers like Datu with huge post-harvest loses.

"A lot of farmers decided to stop farming because they know that their grains would just go to waste," he recounts.

The situation improved dramatically with the construction of two concrete solar dryers built by LIBRO's Gawad sa Kalinga Foundation (GSK) Program, in conjunction with the local government.

The post-harvest facilities are among 815 Barangay Infrastructure Projects which include water systems, grains warehouses, foot bridges, trading centers, farm-to-market roads and boat landings being constructed by GSK in collaboration with local governments throughout conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Each of the solar dryers were built, farmers no longer had to wait for days to dry their grains.

With the two 10x20-meter pavement-type solar dryers, 40 cavans or sacks of palay could be dried at once.

The Datu Kinarangan Farmers' Association, which manages the facility, devised a scheduling scheme to accommodate all farmers from the barangay's seven sitios during the entire week.

The scheme has resulted in a more systematic post-production cycle, which has not only eliminated tensions among farmers but has also ensured a steadier sense of camaraderie.

Municipal Agriculturist Jr. Kinapisan Municipal Planning Development Coordinator, says that the solar dryers have been a boon to farmers in the area, who are now experiencing increased productivity levels, and consequently, enjoying better incomes.

"The project has helped our farmers a lot because all of them can now dry their grains properly. Also, you no longer see sacks of rotting corn by the roadside," explains Encomienda as he quips.

She says that, farmers can now demand better prices due to the improved quality of the grains.

The average buying price of corn in the area is now P9 per kilo, while palay sells at P12 to P14 per kilo.

Traders are also pleased because Datu manager's farmers are able to regularly meet their volume requirements.

According to Dominolo, the farmers' association manager is a marvelous. He receives a fee of P1.50 for every sack of corn or palay dried using the facility.

The proceeds generated are used by the organization for the maintenance of the facility and to provide small loans to its members.

Datu is grateful to LIBRO and GSK for the assistance they have provided to his community.

He says that due to his improved income, he is now able to provide for the needs of his family and to send all of his children to school. GSK Dry. grain

HENRY and wife Maya with their children

Math wiz also has a green thumb

From page B/1

then on weekends saving them," he says.

His passion for gardening goes a long way back.

"In the song 'Bahay Kubo' (Nipa Hut), during those years of the Secret Martial Law (which made seeds unavailable to the public), we planted in our backyard, small as it is, all the vegetables in that song," he remembers.

Nowadays, this hobby obviously needs a sliced 108 of those potted plants at home. He's part of a GP board group that oversees financial-making as an art form, but he regards himself as a complete in this field.

"My being formal materials and have a workshop every week. I call them the Organic and Other Vegetables Group. I have very, very ugly-looking plants into something fine," he says.

Rowena buys formal materials that were farmed and sprouted from the forests and grows them. The plants simply need water and sunlight to thrive, he says.

"The most thrilling experience is when you see leaves growing after two to three weeks. After that, you try to wire it, then if you change your mind, cut here or there and form whatever you like," he says.

In the backyard, his wife Maya grows herbs like parsley, rosemary and basil.

Rowena is also a devout dad to three gifted children and is married to a fellow structural genius. They were among the first husband-and-wife actuary team in the Philippines.

Mensa family

Taking after their parents, the two eldest children are now members of Mensa, an international organization founded in England in 1946 for the intellectually elite.

The youngest, Rowena Jr., 16, just old enough to take the exams to qualify for Mensa membership but is a budding ballerina mentored by Shirley Cruz Habib.

After winning top honors in an international ballet competition in Singapore, the family recently flew to California to accompany Sara, who's in grade 5 at St. Paul, to a ballet performance in Disneyland. The second child Gwen, a junior high school student from Ateneo is a math wizard like his parents. The eldest, Yohn is taking up BS economics at UP Diliman.

Rowena's successful career started in 1981 with the largest Filipino-owned insurance firm, Life. He then joined Manila Life (which became CMG and was eventually absorbed by Metrolife) and Cocolife later on, before joining SLFP as vice president of a small insurance company owned by the Knights of Columbus.

Career path

It was when he took up his MBA in UP that his interest shifted to finance and investments, after which his career as chief investment officer of SLFP began to shape up.

Asked what he thinks is the most challenging part of being SLFP's new CIO, he says it's really to grow the asset management arm of the business — especially since this company has beefed up its business from a mere mixture of risks to a key provider of wealth management products.

When he was put in charge of SLFP's asset management group in late November 2006, sales were hitting only P76 million and he was tasked to boost the sales level to P3 billion.

"That was my first challenge as CIO of the asset management side. We made P3.9 billion in the first year, the following year (we've made) P5.9 billion, we're gonna hit 10 percent, then 102 percent (the year after)," he says.

In the first quarter of this year, SLFP's mutual fund sales have totalled P3 billion.

"Both by funds, we had to strengthen the foundation that will hopefully make us the largest and most admired fund asset management in the Philippines," Herrera says.

"We're getting there. We started in 2000, with only three funds at P50 million each. We now manage close to P4.4 billion of assets in our mutual funds and our returns has been very good to our clients," he says.

SLFP offers an array of wealth management services tailor-fit to clients' risk appetite—ranging from the ultra-conservative to the daredevil investor.

"There's no single solution for everyone. We take into account customers' preferences, tolerance to risk and investment horizon. We're probably the only company that asks clients more than 20 questions, to make sure that the products suit them. We try to understand them better," he says.

SLFP's suite of pre-need products have likewise rebounded from the industry-wide slump induced by the collapse of two large players—GSIS' College Assurance Plan (Asia) Inc. and Philcox.

"We've been here for over 100 years, survived World Wars, so we started a campaign where we packaged a consumer product and a financial product, which brought tremendous success... From less than 6 percent market share in 2006, we now have 15 percent market share in terms of MCFs as end-2006 to take the leadership in that measurement," Herrera says.

SLFP's main strength is a strong agency force that has enabled it to come up with value products that fit three business lines—insurance, mutual funds and pre-need, Herrera says.

"We may not have the 5,000-agency force that our mates competitive in the life insurance business has. We only have 2,500, but in terms of quality that's where we are different from most of the industry," he says.

He believes his company has so far only reached the "tip of the iceberg" as far as market penetration is concerned.

"We have more than 500,000 policyholders on the life side. We have only a little over 13,000 (clients) in mutual funds and about 33,000 in pre-need, so there's a lot of cross-selling opportunities even within the existing client base of Sun Life," he says.

In the future, Herrera says SLFP will consider selling products through new channels, such as bancassurance or the selling of insurance products through banks.

"We've been in the region here bancassurance has translated to growth in sales. That's what we'll continue working on. We haven't stopped looking for partners," he says.

In terms of market segmentation, SLFP has carved a strong business for its life insurance within the upscale market but it's targeting the broader market for its pre-need and especially for the booming mutual fund business.

"We truly believe in the vision for Filipinos to have financial freedom. Empowering even the smallest saver and trying to move them from savers into investors is a key objective we see in asset management," he says.

MAP CEO Academy

FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVES WHO would like to be more literate in computer and information and communication technology, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) is conducting a series of courses under the auspices of the MAP CEO Academy.

Organized by the ICT Executive of MAP headed by Fides F. Macasaet, and under the guidance of Cesar S. Pushitaki, governor-in-charge of the MAP ICT Committee, the ICT executive sessions will cater to 40/forty levels of participants, ranging from those with basic skills to those with advanced skills.

These executive sessions are jointly sponsored by Autodesk, the world's largest global distribution system provider; Intuit, the leading solution provider; Intuit, the leading solution provider; Intuit, the leading solution

Taipan Sy to get a doctoral degree

PRESENTATION OF THE University of Guam's resolution to Henry Sy Sr. (2nd from right) by President Harold Allen as Cynthia Florian (3rd) from left) and Federidad Sy look on. ALVIN MURAO

SM FOUNDER AND CHAIR HENRY Sy Sr. was recently honored by the University of Guam at a dinner reception at the Hotel Sharge's La Fonda to announce the intent of the The Board of Regents of UOG and the Board of Directors of the Endowment Foundation to confer by 14th an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Management (Honoris Causa). The actual conferral ceremony will be held in Guam on the 27th of May 2007.

The doctoral degree was given in honor of Sy's philanthropic efforts in Guam, where 25 to 30 percent of the population are of Filipino descent. Sy has been a firm advocate of education. His contributions to Guam either through business or through education have been a record toward making Guam a better place.

He has done the members of the Board of Regents of the University of Guam and the Board of Directors of the Endowment Foundation come to the Philippines to hold a ceremony in honor of Sy. The delegation were headed by foundation director Thomas Calvo, board of regents treasurer Cynthia Ferrauri, and UOG president Harold Allen.

The University of Guam is a major institution of higher education in the Western Pacific. It is a land grant institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Its history dates back to June 1952, when the island established the Territorial College of Guam as a two-year training school under the Department of Education. The college, located on a high school campus in Mangilao, had an initial enrollment of about 200 students.

Today the university has more than 3,000 alumni, and currently 3,000 students are taking baccalaureate degrees in 35 different areas and graduate degrees in 12 different areas. It supports the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Professional Studies and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. During their visit, the delegates of the UOG and the Endowment Foundation held bilateral talks to encourage partnership between the Philippines and Guam in the areas of education and research.

Sy last traveled to the island in the 1980s, initially investing in the Guam Hilton Hotel. In 1988, he invested in the Agana Shopping Center, and has been committed to the joint efforts of the local government and private sector the ever since. The capital city Sy was awarded the prestigious Governor's Award naming him ambassador at large by Guam Gov Felix Camacho last year.

MOVEMENT

Etihad appoints new EVP

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES-based national airline, has appointed Giles Vermeersch as its new executive vice president for cargo.

Vermeersch said, "It is a privilege to be joining Etihad at such an exciting time in its history. Crystal Cargo has grown over time into a very strong proposition [that] I am relishing the opportunity of working with its talented team and expanding the business further."

Prior to joining Al Gulf Air, Vermeersch was chief executive of the UK-based Air Menzies Cargo World.

James Hogan, Etihad's chief executive added: "It is great to be welcoming Dan to Etihad and I look forward to working closely with him in his new role. He has a wealth of experience in the cargo industry which will be crucial in the development of Etihad Crystal Group."

Currently, Etihad offers flights to 41 destinations across Middle East, Europe, North America, Africa and Asia, including the Philippines. All flights offer excellent connectivity with Etihad's services. Etihad flies [illegible] four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday).

Metrobank elects new board member

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST CO. (Metrobank), the country's leading bank in total resources, has elected Lorenzo V. Tan as a new member of its board of directors during its annual stockholder's meeting on May 7, 2007.

Tan succeeds the senior executive vice president and head of the bank's treasury group. He joined Metrobank in 2001 and is chief for Tri-State Leasing and Finance Corporation and Metropolitan Bank (Botswana) Ltd., and director of First Metro International Inc., Ltd. (Hong Kong).

A graduate of San Beda College with a degree in B.S. Commerce (Accounting) cum laude, Tan previously held key positions in Solidbank Corporation, Citibank Global Private Bank, Citibank Private Bank (EC), Citicorp Securities Inc., Citibank Private Bank (Hong Kong) and Citibank N.A. (Taiwan).

GOINGS-ON

Gokongwei Foundation opens China scholarship program

JOHN GOKONGWEI JR. CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT of John Gokongwei Jr. announced recently that the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF) is opening a one-year scholarship program for talented young professionals and college graduates to study all expenses paid in Beijing, China.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation China scholarship program is similar to the early 20th-century "pensionado" program of the US government of sending outstanding young students of the Philippines to study in the United States. Many of the "pensionados" eventually became leaders in Philippine government and business.

The Gokongwei program includes, among others, Chinese culture, government, economy and Mandarin language training in Beijing.

All applicants can e-mail AGSM Corporate Liaison Associate vice president Manuel del Rosario at [illegible]@agsm.com.ph, or call telephone numbers (02) 386-3388 and (02) 632-3551, local 138.

Coca-Cola donates $1M to PGH

THE COCA-COLA group has donated $1 million to the Philippine General Hospital, which will undertake its 100th year of providing quality health care this year.

"PGH today is really blessed as we approach our centennial year. We have really been counting our blessings since last year, we have had a reinforcing of philanthropy from both the government and the private sector. Of course today we are overwhelmed by this donation from Coca-Cola," said Dr. Carmelo Bitoy, director of the PGH.

"This donation will really go a long way in rehabilitating the patient pay blocks and one charity ward," he continued. "And these blocks will not only render service to the paying patients of the hospital, but also to the poor and marginalized patients of the charity wards. These pay blocks will also generate some income which we will use for the operation of the hospital in general. So with that, I join the whole PGH community in thanking Coca-Cola for this very generous donation."

Vocal-ize your business!

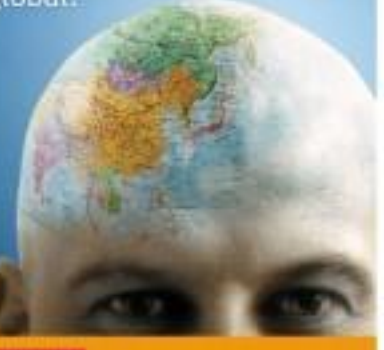
Instant worldwide connection starts at ₱900 per month.

Expand your business and have the power to call anywhere in the world. Plus... have business presence in 400 cities in 39 countries worldwide. Have a virtual office in Singapore, Tokyo, and New York, or in any major city you choose. With our Vocal World Numbers™, your customers, suppliers, and even your relatives abroad can call your Singapore, Tokyo and New York "local numbers," while you take their calls right here in the Philippines -- at no additional cost!

You can also make and receive unlimited Vocal to Vocal calls anytime, anywhere!

Costs less. Portable. Simple. Far reaching.

Think global.



Hotline: 918-5200

Cebu: 032-2542542 or 032-4158003

or call toll-free hotlines:

1-800-1-888-1866 (PLDT)

1-800-3-888-8888 (GLOBE)

www.callvocal.com

VOCAL PLANS	VOCAL EXPRESS	VOCAL ADVANCE	VOCAL BUSINESS
Monthly Service Fee	₱ 900	₱ 2,000	₱ 3,000
Free Minutes	125 minutes	300 minutes	1,000 minutes
Vocal World Number	-	Inclusive of one Vocal World Number (Canada / Taiwan / Germany / Italy / UK)	
Free Features	Call Waiting • Call Forwarding • Speed Dialing • Caller ID • Call Transfer • Call Hold • 3-Party Conference • Do Not Disturb		
One-time Fee	₱ 1,000	₱ 1,000	₱ 1,000
Free Phone	(Grandstream Budgetone 100)	(Grandstream Budgetone 100)	(Linksys SPA941)

Your business just became worldwide as quickly as you can answer hello!™

VOC@L More than just VoIP

Pacific Internet

Pacific Internet Singapore • Hong Kong • Philippines • Australia • Thailand • India • Malaysia

BUSINESS Monday

AMD 64 Athlon X2

HP recommends Windows Vista™ Business

IT SAVES POWER AUTOMATICALLY. AUTOMATICALLY SAVING YOU MONEY.

Meet the PC that's as thrifty as you are – the new HP Compaq dc5750 Business PC. Armed with AMD Athlon™ 64 X2 Dual-core processor 4200+*, the HP dc5750 has been designed to conserve energy wherever possible, by adjusting power levels up for heavy applications, and down for light ones – reducing your operating costs considerably. This smart system even saves you time, thanks to its suite of management tools and integrated console for multi-tasking and simplified manageability. And when it comes to data security, you'll waste no time worrying, with an array of features like RAID 1 and HP ProtectTools. Best of all, it's yours for a very affordable price. So get the new HP dc5750 Business PC, and start maximising your dollar today and every day.

BUSINESS IS PERSONAL.

CALL 1-800-1441-6688 or (632) 867-3557
VISIT hp.com/personal
EMAIL ph.contact@hp.com

Investments turned sour

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Fabella

[illegible] PEOPLE AGREE to pool their resources together to engage in business, a series of agreements usually accompanies that action.

They look forward to receiving some time in the future, a fair return on their investment.

But business, like life, is not meant to be a land of roses. Just as disputes or conflict, businesses fail as expectations of profits do not materialize.

When this happens, the investor's initial reaction is to demand an explanation from the people who were tasked with heading the business. And if the explanation is not to his liking, to ask for a refund of the money he put into the enterprise.

It makes no difference that the investor knew the risks involved when he added his money into the corporate kitty.

The question of whether a stockholder can demand a repayment of his subscription or shares of stock in a corporation was the subject of a query to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It involved a minority stockholder who wanted his company to buy back his stocks despite the fact that it is in serious financial trouble.

The SEC stated that the law does not give stockholders the right to demand a refund of their investment in line with the principle that the subscription to the company's stocks constitutes a trust fund for the benefit of the creditors.

Consent

The entire subscription is, in effect, the treasury fund from which the firm bases extended credit or services to the corporation can look to for payment of whatever amount may be due and owing to them.

Also, by subscribing to the stocks, the stockholders are deemed to have entered into a contract among themselves from which no one can withdraw without the consent of the others.

The contract between the stockholders gives them the power to act on the principle that those who consented to the common fund (or surplus of the subscription) whether fully paid or not) have a right to give or withhold their consent to any action that may result in the fund's reduction.

The SEC explained that the approval process "springs from the necessity of safeguarding unimpaired against the depletion by a corporation of its assets and impairment of its capital for the protection of the creditors."

But even if the stockholders give their consent and the interests of the creditors are safeguarded, the resignations of shares can be made unless the corporation has accumulated retained earnings in its books to cover the buy-back.

Unappropriated retained earnings (also known as surplus profits) refer to the earnings of a corporation that have not been set aside or earmarked for any corporate purpose, such as, payment of obligations or to fund future projects.

It is money in the corporate coffers that the company can, if its directors deem it proper, distribute to its stockholders by way of cash dividends.

Extra cash

With the surplus profits, the disbursement of corporate funds to repurchase the shares of a stockholder is not supported in and of itself adversely affect the interests of the corporation's creditors.

Absent that status quoting the stockholder who wants out has to wait for many predictable years before he can sell the corporation to refund his investment.

If the dissatisfied stockholder is really in earnest about cutting his ties with the corporation, he can sell his stocks to third parties.

On this point, the SEC said that unless there are restrictions in a company's articles of incorporation, the sale or transfer of shares by a stockholder to a third party does not require the consent of the corporation and cannot be prevented by it or its officers.

There's a caveat to this action. The sale or transfer will not be effective unless the selling stockholder has paid in full his subscription.

Under the Corporation Code, a subscription contract is considered one, entire and indivisible contract; it cannot be divided into portions.

The stockholder cannot demand the issuance of a stock certificate covering his subscription until he has paid the corporation the full value of his subscription.

A situation may arise where the subscriber to the common fund is unable to pay the subscription. The SEC said the sale will be allowed on condition that there will only be one buyer and he is willing to assume the payment obligation for the unpaid subscription, and the remaining stockholders agree to the sale.

The consent of the stockholders is required because the introduction of a new party constitutes a novation or modification of the subscription contract earlier entered into by the original stockholders. (For feedback, please write to rpdabella@inquirer.com.ph.)

₱3.9 million to be won!

Raise & Erase

Raise ₱1 million

Erase ₱1 million

Erase ₱1 million

Plus a total of Php200,000 to be won each month in the Deposits, Auto Loan and Credit Card categories!

For a chance to start a worry-free life, call Customer Service 683-8888 and find out more!

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P500,000

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance · Property and Casualty Insurance · Health Care Management · Pre-Need Plans · Savings · Mutual Funds · Property Development · Credit Card · Business Process Outsourcing · Reinsurance · Financial Advisory Services

A Subsidiary of American International Group, Inc. (AIG)

Banking that protects.

AIG PhilAm

BUSINESS Monday

Breaking into the tennis world a ball at a time

Unknown to many, the Philippines is the world's biggest tennis ball manufacturer

SCOPE of the SP-made tennis balls

By Abigail L. Ho

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA—WITH ITS powerful lob and lightning quick moves—can be considered the country's greatest contribution to the world of sports right now.

Unknown to many, however, the Philippines is also making waves in the world of tennis.

Although the country has yet to produce a Grand Slam champion, the balls that tennis superstars worldwide use in the Wimbledon championships are manufactured in the Philippines.

Justin Junge, managing director of Dunlop Slazenger (Philippines) Inc., says the British firm's Philippine plant within the Bataan Economic Zone has been exclusively providing Wimbledon tournament balls since 2003.

"That was the first time that the Wimbledon ball was produced outside of the United Kingdom," he relates. "We may not have a tennis world champion yet, but we can say that the balls that the superstars use are made in the Philippines."

He says Wimbledon players are under for 5,000 Grand Slazenger balls—68,000 balls in all—for every tournament. Only 800 of these balls, however, are used in the actual tournament. The rest are sold to the public.

Before being shipped to the US, each of these balls go through very stringent tests to ensure that they all meet the Wimbledon specifications—from the weight, to the fluff, to the bounce.

"And we watch the tournament on TV to see how the players are using our balls. Is their luck satisfied? Some players sometimes blame the ball or the racket when they lose. We don't want our balls to be blamed, so we make sure each one is perfect," Junge says.

Largest tennis ball producer

Even before bagging the Wimbledon contract, he says the Dunlop Slazenger plant in Bataan can already be considered the biggest manufacturer of tennis balls in the world.

When the plant started operating in 1977, it only produced 200 dozen balls a day. This was during the time when parent company Dunlop Slazenger first ventured into what had been manufacturing plants in the UK, United States, Germany, South Africa and Indonesia.

The Bataan plant's parent firm decided to consolidate its manufacturing operations by closing down some plants and transferring operations to other facilities in other parts of the world.

In 1995, the company's Georgia plant was shut down and its operations transferred to the Philippines.

The next wave of consolidation took place in 1998, and the Philippines had to compete with plants in the Germany and the UK for survival.

In the end, the Philippine plant won, making it the biggest tennis ball manufacturing facility in the world.

"We have another small facility in Jakarta, but it can hardly be called a manufacturing plant. The Philippines is where almost all of the Dunlop and Slazenger balls come from," Junge relates.

The Bataan plant now produces 22,000 dozen balls a day, almost all of which go to the export market.

Half of the plant's output is shipped to Europe and the UK, and around 1 million balls go to North America. The rest are sold in the Asia-Pacific region.

The plant also produces balls that are tailor-made for the German market, with specifications that are different from other European countries.

The local market gets around 60,000 dozen balls a year from the Bataan plant.

Proudly Pinoy

Although the company can be considered a fully foreign enterprise, Junge says it is managed properly by Filipinos, from the managing director down.

He says Filipino craftsmanship and management skills have enabled the country to emerge as the location of choice for the Dunlop Slazenger manufacturing facility, and there are the very things that will keep the UK-based company from transferring its manufacturing operations elsewhere, specifically to China.

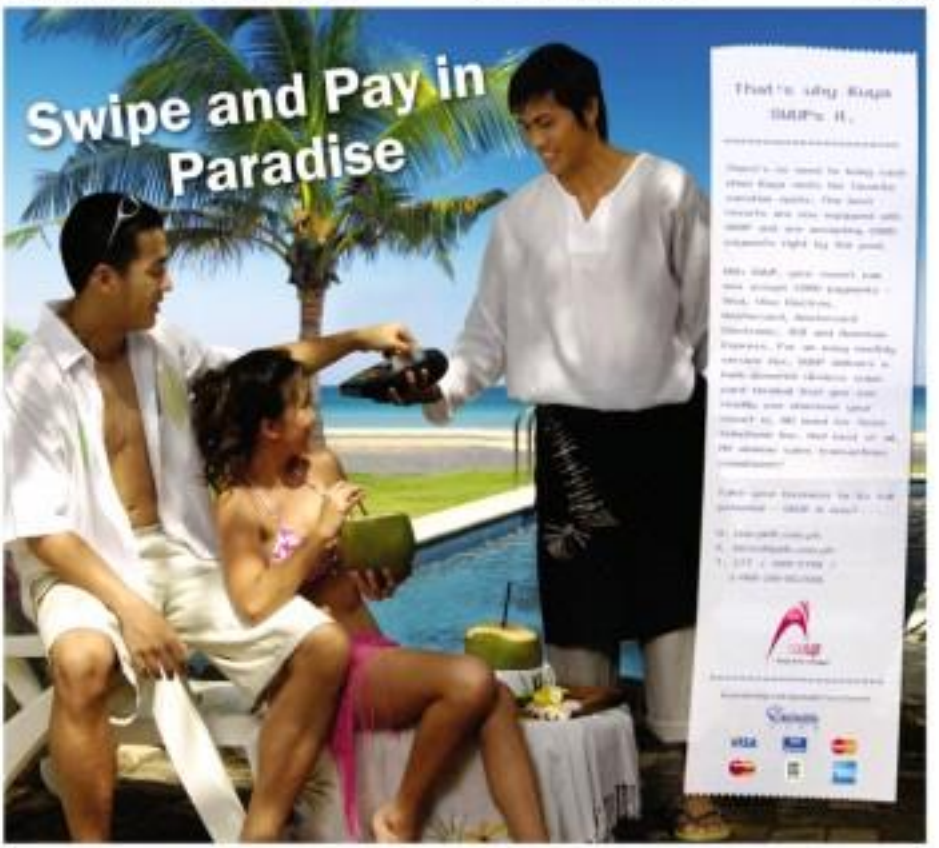
"The Philippines is very competitive, particularly in the 'proper' tennis balls, or the quality balls," he says. "We're viable in the Philippines, so it's not necessary to go to China. In a sense, we're shattering the China myth with what we're doing here."

Apart from the actual tennis balls, he says most of the raw materials used to produce the balls now also come from the Philippines.

Around 75 percent of the rub-

BREAKING BOUNCE

IN DEMAND: Inspect championship tennis balls



Maverick adman talks of a new breed of consumers

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND managing partner Gil Mapa Jr. of Euro RSCG Manila will give a talk at the forthcoming Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) convention on the subject "Presumptions: The next point of a new breed of consumers borne out of today's New Media."

From the tone of his topic alone, one can divine that Mapa is a non-conformist. He loves to challenge standard norms and would rather create new ones. He believes "the future belongs to those who dare to be first." That seems to be the secret of his rewarding career in the cutthroat arena of marketing and advertising.

Schwab college graduate go, I start of core my career at an investment institution without any roadmap. Quite quickly I discovered the job area not cut out for me. I then moved to the People's Journal and the Malaya newspapers as media representative for both publications," Mapa said.

Later on, Mapa made a bold decision to try a career in advertising in the Cebu office of Ogilvy and Mather. But as many maverick go through, Mapa became restless again and returned to Manila to lead the then orange-blink war between Eraso and Magnolia. He'd accolades from Advertising at Saatchi Saatchi, Mapa introduced Nestle Iran, the first carbonated tea beverage in the market at that time.

Wanting to hone his new integrated marketing communications discipline, Mapa joined PR agency Agency Associates, where he got extensive training in marketing PR from Charlie Agency, acknowledged as one of the pillars of PR in the Philippines.

Having acquired a wealth of skills in marketing from many years with Agency Associates, Mapa felt he was now ready for the big time. He joined Euro RSCG Manila as the company's first client service director.

For the next 10 years, Mapa has been part of the Euro RSCG Worldwide success story, being cross-posted to Singapore as Southeast Asia regional account director for John Hancock, with clients including the Volvo, Philips and Peugeot accounts.

Back in Manila, Mapa led the Procter & Gamble (P&G) Zest Euro RSCG team that was cited by P&G Asia Australia and India in 2002 for "outstanding advertising and communications that doubled Zest volume share to 21 percent in just 18 months." His Zest Euro RSCG team was also recognized by P&G Zest Global Business Unit as "the best team in the worldwide Zest league."

"I also conducted primary research studies on consumers for various countries—Indonesia, Thailand and Manila for P&G Zest, Beijing for John Hancock and South America for the Philippines' Department of Tourism (DOT)," Mapa said.

Today, Mapa has taken on a bigger and bolder challenge, leading Euro RSCG 4D Manila as its chief operating officer. The Manila office is an affiliate of Euro RSCG Worldwide, headed in the 2006 Global Agency Network of the Year by the prestigious publication Advertising Age, and the fifth-largest advertising agency network in the world, with 233 agencies in 75 countries.

Mapa admits that bridging clients' market their products in today's age of digital

Marketing pose a great deal of challenge especially with the emergence of consumers. "A consumer is a consumer segment borne out of the digital technology," he says. He explains, "As consumers get required to move in formation through these new digital technologies like the Internet and mobile technology, they become more marketing savvy."

According to Mapa, unlike previous consumer generations who relied on traditional means of communication, consumers use the Internet and mobile technology to seek information on various products and services. The process does not end upon the acquisition of new knowledge.

"Consumers pose significant challenges in markets because the acquired information is actively shared and transferred to others. These consumers have a different perspective on marketing and they can easily tell if a brand is fooling them or not," Mapa explained.

This new breed of discriminating buyers and users can also make or break a product or brand. "Consumers now the first to embrace YouTube and the social-net phenomena," Mapa pointed out. "They are also the ones who now look at the back of every product label."

During a stint with Euro RSCG Singapore, Mapa and his teammates relied on the results of a consumer research they conducted to develop the "Dr. InkTree" campaign for Asia Pacific Bureau which became Euro RSCG Singapore's most awarded multi-media campaign. "Based on the results of the consumer survey, we developed multimedia games, websites, short messaging service (SMS) as well as staged events and participated in a younger market which Asia Pacific Bureau wanted to reach."

For their part, Mapa's Euro RSCG Manila has also done successful communications projects for Nokia.com, the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, all anchored on extensive consumer research. These include Inquest, the first multimedia mystery game in the Philippines, and the "Philippines Explore. Experience. Inspire." website, the first online campaign of the DOT.

Mapa stresses marketing professionals should be wary of the presence of presumptions if they want to make their products successful globally in the age of digital marketing. Mapa said Euro RSCG Worldwide has already embarked on a global consumer research which he will present to members of the PMA at the 38th National Marketing Conference, May 23-24, 2007, Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Pasay City.

Mapa will discuss how budding and established marketing professionals can decipher the characteristics of a consumer and how they can apply this new knowledge in developing successful marketing programs.

For more information, call 659-4800 or 636-3722.

mapa

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

"The must-see, marketing event of the year!"

"Two thumbs up!"

38th National Marketing Conference

DA MARKETING CODE

Secrets, mysteries, codes...revealed.
It's going to be one fascinating and exciting ride.

So get set! You could get to unlock a brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer.

REGISTRATION COST for the NATIONAL MARKETING CONFERENCE

1 Regular Rate (April 19 - May 20, 2007) Php 10,800
2 - On-Site Rate Php 12,800

Please Call: 634-4800 • 634-3722 • 636-1401 email: philmarketing@hotmail.net

Unlock the code on May 23-24 at the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza

Breaking into tennis world a ball at a time

From page B1-1

ber used for the balls come from Hindustan, with the balance sourced from Indonesia, he says.

"We're in the Philippines, as we may as well work with Philippine companies. We're very committed to the Philippine economy. As much as we can, we get local materials," he says.

In working with the Mindanao rubber producers, he says the company is not only helping the local rubber industry by getting its rubber supply from here, but is also enabling the rubber manufacturers to better compete in the world market.

"When we started using Philippine rubber three years ago, we also started to educate the manufacturers by telling them what kind of rubber we need. We also train. So our bookings from the international market are there so that they can be more competitive, both on the cost and technical aspects," he says.

Plans

Jungo says the company is now trying to make its operations more efficient, to gain-nation for economies.

"We're trying to improve the condition of our older machines. We're also hoping we... future that connection power so we can cut our costs," he says. "We hope to get more volume from the basket. There's still room for a capacity increase. We want to supply all the major tournaments."

Just last year, during the Wimbledon in Manila event, UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham highlighted the fact that the balls being used in the world's oldest tennis tournament are being manufactured right here in the Philippines.

"During Ginenger has reason to be proud that the tennis balls used in Wimbledon are manufactured here in the Philippines," he had said in a speech.

Judging from the way things are going, Jungo says that will be the case for many years to come.

Research claims technology good for Filipino families

BOSS TECHNOLOGY BREAK TO FAMILIES?

Contrary to popular notion, the latest research conducted by ORO Philippines, a tech- nic information specialist, showed it's not really the case. In fact, Filipino families have been reaping the best out of technology in keeping their relationships intact.

In a recent press conference, ORO Philippines said that 89 percent of respondents agree that technology enabled them to remain in contact with other family members. Meanwhile, 86 percent of the respondents said that it will be difficult to stay in touch with families and friends without technology. Almost 75 percent expect that life would be better in the future because of technology.

"I am actually glad that technology has helped us in many ways. On the other hand, technology has made the Filipinos appreciate their own families and their way of living," said Alice Reyes, CEO of ORO Philippines.

Tradition over technology

Even on the advent of what is dubbed as the "information age," the Filipino family still embraces traditional values with the family remaining as a person's number one priority. Filipinos' care for the elderly still prevails as 98 percent of the respondents say that one of the most highly esteemed Filipino characteristic with most family members is still tied according to 81 percent of respondents.

Also, the research noted that the Filipino family still enjoys going out on vacations together. And even the simplest activities such as watching television is a form of bonding as the favorite bonding event of families with 87 percent and 81 percent of respondents saying so respectively. In reality, families mostly enjoy watching comedy shows, movies and news/current affairs together.

Other perceived family values have been with Filipinos for centuries and it is good that these values are co-exist with technological growth. Strict, myself, make sure that I keep the traditional values part of my core family," Reyes said.

With the emergence of the multitasking lifestyle, the Filipino family has given 14.9 hours of their day in the consumption of media and 14 hours for technology. It pointed out that on the average consumption of media, respondents say that they spend 4.8 hours on the Internet and 2.27 hours reads the newspaper.

But it is important to note that Filipinos spend 9.1 hours with their families and almost 1.9 hours with their friends while 10.2 hours are spent for everyday essentials like sleeping, school or work.

Mobile phones still remain as the major tool for communicating among family members with 50 to 60 percent of respondents saying that they use the mobile phones to talking with their parents, children, siblings and relatives. The mobile phones have penetrated 94 percent of households, according to ORO's research.

It was also found out in the study that 80 percent have already recognized technology's capacity to enhance social lives—70 percent said that they have friends in different countries and entire the name of the Internet. Also, 93 percent said that the technology provided them a platform in overcoming their shyness.

Versus the global family

A Filipino family exists on average 10.6 technological devices with at least 2.1 computers and 2 workstations. The Philippines is also the top home computer users such as South Korea, China, Taiwan and the United States.

The Filipino household is still the most organized user of mobile phones in comparison to other countries. The Philippines is also above the global average with 4.7 hours per day for media consumption.

Also, the country gained higher percentages on how families would want to receive advertisements compared to the global average. Families said that it is all right for them to receive advertisements on promotions and information. Meanwhile, we are at par with our Asian neighbors with preferences on getting advertisements on personal media such as mobile phones and MP3 players.

'Digital family life'

Improvement in technology brings opportunities that until today continued to be untapped. As the ORO research suggested, advertisements should be geared toward where new opportunities are there are other families have freeclashing with real events.

"We at ORO Philippines believe that technology has opened a lot of new windows for disseminating information. Along with traditional media, it created new and even better ways of delivering and gathering messages across. We believe that ORO can help companies be part of this growing trend of the digital family," Reyes added.

Pinoy values shine in high-level gathering

BEVERLY HILLS—IT'S A HOUSE and rumble would and the Scorpion- hours go grave was learning pave in international, mega-business about personal culture.

Lewis Lewis, past president of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, is chair and CEO of TLC Interior LLC, the Lewis Family investment firm. She is also the chair and CEO of TLC Beverly—China, which operates retail contemporary stores in four major cities in China.

On Wednesday, following a fellow panelist's remark during one of the sessions of the Milken Global Conference 2007, Ms Lewis said entrepreneurs who were part of the audience are to listen to what the speaker just said about doing business overseas.

Despite the popularity of outsourcing nowadays to take advantage of low or costs to emerging economies, one should be cautious, she reminded. Being with a "grain of salt," she said. Anyone looking to expand overseas should examine the influence in learning and choosing the right people with the right values to employ. In China, for example, government policies can change abruptly and would adversely affect the business. For that reason, it is best to take into the fold people who are part of the government. Additionally, she said, big money is here and other countries should stop to the United States as the leading economy for businesses needing funding, there is capital looking for companies with cash records of making profits and have good management to make money.

Lewis later said that businessmen should have core values of integrity and take care of customers. Being in business, one must know how to make profit. It, know where you're going and observe the Golden Rule, she said. Every year is synonymous now are a gain. What the sales goal is, the income goal. One is small business and not taking salary must also bear in mind that the amount corresponding to the salary is not counted as part of profit, she said.

Lewis took over the family business a year after the death of her husband, Reginald F. Lewis, in 1993 and started liquidating nonperforming assets of the company. Her company has a core plant and is self-reliant.

Other conference highlights included economist with former national treasurer in other parts of the globe were Gerhard Glomsrud, European managing partner of ING Groep; Richard Gill, David Kim, CEO of Baja Fresh; Evan Sohn, owner, publisher and CEO; Stanton Leader Media; and Matthew Bucksbaum, managing director, HG Group. Medvedev was Rafael Pacha, a former News Corp. executive who is now chairman and CEO of an organization for dual citizenship, Vantage International.

The yearly Milken Institute Global Conference is a high-level gathering of decision makers and knowledge to compete officials, more than 3,000, many coming from other countries, were at the three-day 10th anniversary celebration dinner hosting this Former held at the Beverly Hilton starring Jon Stewart.

The chief executive officer of the 47th Filipino holding each get comes as dependence on oil, the Internet, the environment, real estate, private equity, changing the world order, philanthropy, education, business and the economy, politics, health care and others was simply to worldwide and one had a joining of about a dozen sessions—some private—press briefings, book signings, receptions and other activities going on at the same time in different rooms of the venue hotel.

Sen. John Avery addressed the audience and, together with wife Teresa Heinz, signed books on climate change on Monday.

LOOM: Nicolas Lewis, past president of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations with other speakers at the Milken Global Conference

Serving OFWs' needs

MARIVIC AVE. MEJIA BOQUIADO OWNERS of the popular Manok Kuchet chain often share, still remember their early years when they quit their jobs to become full-time entrepreneurs.

It was in 1984, and their first business was a grocery cum drugstore. The original Manok chain was a grocery-style pharmacy at the back of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) in Manila. We were newly married at that time. Manok was our first "child," Manny recalls.

Since he is a certified public accountant (CPA), Manny took care of the finance side while Bella, who taught chemistry and physics at PNU, oversaw the various businesses that also included a parlor, a boutique, a canteen and eventually, a leather goods section (LGS).

Started first just as entrepreneurs, Manny would give out loyalty coupons that entitled customers to a gift on their 10th visit to encourage battery-powered shoe store.

More than 40 years since the first Manok store opened, the Aguinaldo owners in love to their beloved. As a result, Manok has become known for its reasonably priced and quality leather goods. They have also expanded to four branches. Manok Leather goods Corp. now has subsidiaries that include a leather goods manufacturing firm, Aurora International Inc. (company) that oversees foreign business, Leather Asia Inc., and a nationwide distribution network that consist of stores such as Manok, Maphilok, Moda Bella, Moda Plus, Carly, Everything 200, and the Manok Standard Design concept stores.

To better serve a big segment of its market—the families of overseas Filipino workers—Manok eventually partnered with leading remittance service provider Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) to offer mobile phone-based remittance and document services and payment systems in its stores.

Smart Padala remittance service booths have been set up in Total Department Stores in the provinces. In Manok stores, the Smart Money cards are now accepted as payment tool.

"We found out since that OFW remittance centers in the provinces, especially in Southern Luzon, where there are many OFW families, are strategically located to enable them to meet convenient one-stop remittance," said Rebecca Siguenza, who is in charge of marketing and the department stores. Rebecca, together with Neal, their son and Mark, has been working alongside their parents in further growing the business.

Smart Padala is the first international cash remittance service through text. Through its smart padala partnership, an OFW can send money straight to their families' and relatives' Smart Money electronic cash cards. Receiving money via Smart Padala is cheaper and very secure.

Since the Smart Money card is linked to the Smart subscribers' mobile phone, beneficiaries receive a text message every time money is remitted to their Smart Money cards. The money may be withdrawn in Banco de Oro, Equicom and Banco de Oro (BDO) automated teller machines, and soon in Manok Total and Total Department Stores.

Manok Total and Total Department Stores are located in Lucena, Santa Rosa, Olongapo, Dasmariñas, Calamba, Laguna, San Pablo, Laguna, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Bacoor, Cavite, and Gapan, Nueva Ecija. There are over 40 Manok stores nationwide.

From offering cheap coupons, Mideos and they have now evolved into modernizing strategy to include text-based promos. A few months ago, they raffled off a house and lot to their partners' store customers. "They had to register throughout," he said.

The elder Siguenza said his children are now more involved in the businesses with Jim Mideos and Mon. Neal oversees the Manok and Aurora businesses, while Mark, the youngest, is the techie. He is involved in the IT side of the operations.

He also hardly acknowledged that his wife Marivic is the one who initiated the business to include leather goods in 1971.

"He went into the leather goods business because it was our first chance to open a store in the mall. At the time, there was only one open left at Quad Love Alexander, and it was a leather goods store. We grabbed the opportunity. Then I looked at the fellow Pagsi and the Encyclopedia Britannica to know more about leather goods." He told director's chairs, saddle bags, tobacco pouches, wallets, Later on, we sold shoes," said Neal Bella.

"Then we got to the decision that our leather tobacco pouches—for clients were mostly tourists and ambassadors. They would place orders, and there were times when one supplier could not deliver the orders on time. So, opposite to here, We decided to go into manufacturing of leather goods—for our first factory was at the back of our garage, using an old sewing machine," added Bella.

The factory is now a big complex in Cielo Special Economic Zone, Batangas. It manufactures leather shoes and bags for export and also for the local market.

BUSINESS Monday

Samsung's latest products deliver purer living

By Jo Anne E. Padawan

IT WAS ITS PEOPLE-FIRST POLICY and commitment to human health that clinched it for Samsung.

That policy led Samsung to introduce in 2004 its silver nano technology—which involves the use of particles to sterilize and deodorize its diverse product lines.

And it was that same policy that enabled the South Korean conglomerate to aim for the top of the home appliance trade.

"Our goal is to become the number one refrigerator and washing machine brand in the region by 2008," said Andy Sarmiento, Samsung's product manager for home appliances, during the Samsung Digital Home Appliances Roadshow 2007 recently.

SAMSUNG'S new split-type air-conditioner, AS-24VSR, has silver plasma ion technology.

New line of appliances

After Samsung introduced its silver nano health system across all product range—from refrigerators, air-conditioners and washing machines, to cellular phones, and microwave ovens—the company continues to think of other ways to provide consumers with a purer living experience.

Recently, Samsung unveiled its new line of home appliances, all of which features silver nano health system combined with the latest technology.

THE TOP range washing machine, WD-S12, features the first air wash in history.

The Samsung Quatro Cooling Convertible Refrigerator, its flagship product, has four separate and distinct compartments of 0 degrees and freezer, each with controlled and cooled by its own separate cooler compartment, preventing the mixing of odors and circulation of bad odor throughout the entire refrigerator. This way, the original flavor of food is retained.

Guaranteed fresh

Also, each separate compartment has a humidity level four times higher than other conventional coolers. This guarantees the freshness of food, Sarmiento said.

The WD-S12C, Samsung's top range washing machine, features the world's first air wash system that removes unpleasant odor, microscopic allergens, bad-odd bacteria and microbes through the washer's hot air and physical strength.

"This product is very good for babies and those people sensitive to odor, " Sarmiento said, explaining that the machine eradicates 99.9 percent of germs and prevents bacteria for up to 30 days.

Samsung's AS-24VSR, its flagship air-conditioner, is notable for its cutting-edge technology and innovative, convenient-to-live design. It has the world's first micro plasma ion (MPI) technology which generates active hydrogen atoms together with oxygen ions.

This MPI device generates 480,000 ions to strongly purify the air. Compared to other brands, Samsung's MPI has the highest Bu virus removal rate at 99.6 percent, according to Samsung.

"MPI eliminates harmful pollen by removing SARS-associated corona virus and also influenza virus, which has the same genetic structure as the avian influenza virus."

Samsung's air-conditioner has a good sleep mode, a temperature control program which, based on the study conducted by the National Hokkyung University in Korea, allows a person to have 02 percent longer deep-sleep hours (222 minutes more compared to 67 minutes using other brands). It also benefits one's health because the good sleep mode maintains comfortable skin temperature throughout the night through precise temperature control.

The air-conditioner does not consume as much power. Its energy consumption is reduced by as much as 20 percent, compared to other models in the market, Seven in one.

SM-33XZRS is a six-door refrigerator with quatro cooling system.

"Our strategy this year is to increase our premium household titles products which the consumers fully enjoy," Sarmiento said. "We are expanding our product lineup to cater to every consumer."

Novel perspective

"Right now, we would also like to offer Samsung to more consumers by penetrating into the mass premium segment."

Other products offered by Samsung include RS-SSAMART TVCR refrigerator with outdoor zone, MA-1420P washing machine with silver nano technology, and AS-12HA split type air-conditioner with good sleep mode.

Samsung, which lives up with its novel perspective that "a brand is created by its consumers," continues to develop products that will cater to the needs of the local market.

Through focus group discussion units dealers and researchers, Samsung hopes to improve its application of silver nano technology in its products.

It also aims to apply the technology in basic products, said Sarmiento.

"In air-conditioners before, for example, we only apply the silver nano particles or ions in the filter. But last year, we also started our magicsavers with silver ions to better protect consumers."

Sarmiento also said that, before, only the high-end products used to contain the silver nano health system.

But now, he added, that feature may be found in all their mid-range products.

Microsoft

Ready for the real thing?

Get the Pinoy Genuine Kit.

Here's your chance to get genuine Microsoft software.

Just follow these three easy steps:

1 VALIDATE

2 BUY

3 GET YOUR KIT—WE'LL SHIP IT FOR FREE.

For inquiries, call the Microsoft Hotline at (632) 872 7230 or e-mail mshgh@microsoft.com

See posters or visit www.microsoft.com/philippines/genuine for full mechanics.

This promo is exclusive to the Philippines from March 28 to May 25, 2007 ONLY!

IN THIS ISSUE
Sergey Kuznetsov's awesome pianism /D2

LIFESTYLE

Zap unwanted hair on BIKINI LINES with LaserLight!
Call Fractal Care at 892-5836 (TRAN)

Journey to the center of the underworld

By Nicole E. Bernardo
Correspondent

THERE MUST BE SOMEthing under the waters of the Verde Island Passage between Batangas and Mindoro, where a treasure trove of 1,726 overlapping marine species can be found in just a 10x10-sq km area. It is the highest concentration of marine life in the world no diver/ man's chest can contain.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) declared the passage "the center of the center of marine shore rich biodiversity" addressing the Summit, Indonesia.

Sea turtles, humpback whales, dolphins, sharks, sea snakes, giant groupers, clams, stylus starfish here, small, garden coral reefs and lush forests covered every kind.

"Nearly 60 percent of all marine species are located in the Verde Island Passage between Mindoro and ocean," said marine biologist Rene

JOURNEY/C2

The Verde Island Passage between Batangas and Mindoro has been declared the world's center of marine shore biodiversity

Journey to the center . . .

Homepage C3

SUNSET at Isla Verde

IBiZA Verde store front/Hilltop

Carpenter of the WELL who dubbed the area "the world's blue water version of the Amazon River basin."

Carpenter's theory is that land barriers, surface temperatures, and nutrition of currents isolated the **sea fauna around the oceans from** one another, making it possible for the species to evolve in a microcosm of diversity.

"About 1/10 of the species can be found in the Philippines alone, and **there are others still undiscovered,**" said Isolda de la Vega of the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving. "By locating the country as the world's marine biodiversity hotspot, we could bring thousands of tourists and explorers to our coastal municipalities."

Washing Machine

The Verde Island has 13 diving spots including San Agustin, Lito Cove and the Mito-Canyon/Washing Machine. "Living Asia" twice featured the island this year, with a shot of a school of dolphins.

San Agustin boasts of a submerged mountain with a pinnacle that drops off to 300 over 500 ft. It is home to migratory species, barracuda, surgeon, jack, trevally, snapper, fusilier, scad, tuna, barracuda and jacks.

There are bubbles that rise from **the ocean floor apparently due to** volcanic activities in the site.

"There's no exotic life down there. When divers speak of Verde Island, they think of San Agustin with its giant gorgonian fans and **garden of corals,**" said Virgilio Carvajal, Verde Island Passage Divemaster and instructor.

On the sea surface of five underwater canyons, one can see whirlpools caused by the changing currents. The canyons have been formed by the water movements that spin down in a roller-coaster ride. The bigger and wilder the currents, the more species of pelagics—swordfish, parrotfishes, frog fishes, nibe worms, mantarays and reef sharks there are to meet.

The current usually starts slow and gradually begins churning. Unexperienced divers are advised to stay close to the bottom and just watch the fishes roll.

Divers not all tourists are rolling in dive dives or provided, the island's nearest offshoot a giant bottom boat where passengers can get a view of the undersea without getting wet.

Lost galleon, lost pirates

The legendary Isla Lobos—one may be fiction but Verde Island was once the abode of pirates who attacked Batangas before wanderers add their lands to the Verde family now runs the Verde Island Passage Divers Association.

Divemaster earlier, Spanish captain Juan Morillo discovered the place, Christianized by others and named it after himself. Remnants of a 1621 wooden galleon ship, Manila Serbian Dish Vita, was discovered with its cannons, terracotta jars and Ming porcelain.

Isla Verde is very **easy to maneuver,** with lowest view of Mt. Iriliron, the 11th highest peak in the country. The resort owners made sure that no new seas on behalf the villas of concrete and bamboo. In the island hill is also reportedly a ground of a village.

"Stop the Verde Island hill an owners involved in sea water, meaning, the water level was once above 300 m above sea level," said Alberto Bautista, executive assistant of the Punta family. "The rock formation on the beach and stop the hills in the area."

The natural riches of the island and its marvelous perceived Lifespan the plans being a residential area. It is a marine sanctuary where it is illegal for the villagers to fish.

The week international underwater photo competition was "Celebrate the Blue Festival" will include the island in September. Exactly the place where adventurers and explorers like Jack Sparrow could dope endless photo shoots and acrobatics without sailing to world's end.

"Divers under you can take different dives—wall dive, drift dive, shallow dive, and enter a new world of corals, sea creatures, caves, canyons and mountains all within reach," Cariaga said.

Fitting the image to the format

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE GUITAR IS AN OBJECT THAT drives one into flights of fancy and lyrical effusions. The six-string Spanish variety, particularly, reminds one of fiestas and bonfires, the poems of Federico García Lorca and Magdalena Salandanan.

One can even see the contours of a woman's body in its swelling curves. But no one would have seriously considered it to double as a canvas. Dare the imagination then to serve the young

No one would have seriously considered the guitar to double as a canvas. Trust the imagination then to serve the young

"ENVY," by Jason Montinola

and to "Joyful Journey" 1-2, as the stuffed toy's shape fits the guitar's contour.

This is also true with many of the pieces in the show, particularly in the close-up portraits where the shape of the host fits the contour of the guitar's body: Jason Montinola's "Sacred Lies" and "Envy"; Dominic Lopez, choir; Dan Arnaiz's "Black Sorrows" (another poem image); Lenard Sta.Ana's "Tears."

In Jappie Samson's "Temptation," a realist depiction of a couple, nude nude turned to one another and each standing on opposite sides of the guitar, it is the flower that fits the format. The syringe, loin and fingerboard act as dwelling line and pressing pull to

"THE SUN and the Moon Quarrel Hence the Year of the Pig," by Joya Cabcabo

"TEMPTATION," by Jappie Samson

reinforcing the sense of separation.

Here, too, are quirky tilists on the musical instruments. In "Envious" and "Rock'n' Roll," Antoni Samson has literally transformed it into what look like a spade and a broom, respectively.

In "Walang Manonong Tirapay," Ryan Rubio has paleted to hide into a man's tooth-lined maw and added an appendage to look like a long pointed tongue.

In many of these pieces, the guitar seems to vanish and the painted image takes over so that the viewer no longer thinks of the format but succumbs to the work and image.

Among those are Pauline Calayagh's "The Twins of My Inspiring Rhythm"; Mickey Maloneda's "Untitled" 1; Joel Mendiola's "Check Mate"; Bena' "Someday"; Jim Orencio's "Blue Vibes"; Joey Cabcabo's "The Sun and the Moon Quarrel Mean the Year of the Pig."

In these pieces, multiple forms, repeat lines and strong chromatic combine to give the impression of swimming and hibernating over the musical instruments, blurring the boundaries and erasing the shape and details of the format. Here the guitar is incidental and the painting is all.

Silverlens Gallery's first photog grantees

POKLONG Reading

CONRADO Veloso

SILVERLENS GALLERY, THE FIRST art gallery in the country to host and organize exclusively photo-based exhibitions, announced the first batch of awardees of its annual grants program.

The program aims to provide professional and financial support to photographers through various efforts, including acquisition of existing material.

The three-person committee the acquisition category are Gerardo Tolentino, Steve Tirona, José Enrique Soriano and Ruhong Kuaching.

Their works, now on exhibit in Silverlens Gallery along Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati, have become part of the Silverlens Foundation (SLFE) collection—the first permanent collection of photography in the Philippines.

The 2007 SLFE grantees show the range of possibilities in contemporary photography in the Philippines: historical record, academic, visual ambiguity, kitschy dramatic, visual poetry, documentary and the hybrid of technical experimentation and formalist elements.

Photojournalist Jiro Soriano's "Episodes: Still Photos of the Untold Mine" documents patients in a mental hospital and tackles the highly charged subject of mental illness.

Reading, in "Anonymity," offers a different facet of portraiture. Friends and strangers alike seem unaware as he requests to pose individually while holding a wood mirror over his/her face. His camera then captures the hauntingly reflected, veiled image of the mirror, making the heads appear both blank and blinding.

Vitamin "The Imelda Collection" shows the fashion photographer throwing the spotlight on the former First Lady in a series of curious, extravagantly reflected, vibrant, visual ambiguity. Kitschy dramatic, visual poetry, documentary and the hybrid of technical experimentation and formalist elements.

Photojournalist Jiro Soriano's "Episodes: Still Photos of the Untold Mine" documents patients in a mental hospital and tackles the highly charged subject of mental illness.

Reading, in "Anonymity," offers

JOSE Enrique Soriano

with hanging and layout inconsistencies." With their rigidly observed scale and composition, the photographs call to mind the visual tradition and practice of still-life painting in photography.

The Silverlens Foundation Acquisition Grants 2007" runs until June 2.

Silverlens was founded in 2003 by Isa Lorenzo, a matured graduate of Parsons School of Design. The gallery is at Warehouse 2, Napoges Bldg., 2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati.

Call 8168041 or visit www.silverlens.com. Silverlens is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 1 p.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday.

Visual Arts

Group exhibit at Serendra

"JOURNEY" A PRELUDE TO A SERIES OF EXHIBITS IN EUROPE, opens today at 7 p.m., in 1 Val Gallery, Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Featured are the works of Arts Bagtas, Robert Dantago, Marites Sisicuan, Abel Pantoja, Carmelo de la Rosa, Fidel Sanmiguel and Janice Lizares-Tuang. Call 8557201.

Auction

Salcedo Auctions, Inc. will have a public auction of Philippine paintings and select collectibles on May 20, 7 p.m., at 329, 150 Plaza, 150 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati. Artists by National Artists Ilocos, Angeles Lucas, Manansala, Victor Edades, Fernando Zobel de Ayala and J. Elizalde Navarro to sell to avid collectors with display of paintings and monuments. The auction lists may be released on May 21-26, 10 a.m. / 5 p.m. Call 8188188 (Bea e-mail bayot manang_jose@salcedo.com.ph).

"THE FISHERMEN," by Ang Kiukok

Group exhibit at Fort Gallery

"Urban Adventures," a group exhibition at Fort Gallery, features Glenda Bautista, Lenny Lim, Derek Tamaka and Julius Sebastian. All former students of the College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Santo Tomas, these four artists depict their contemporary preoccupations—anthropological practice, graphic artist, what designer and figural artist for a publishing house—side art. The exhibit is at once isolated and accessible. "Urban Adventures" opens on May 25 in Fort Gallery, K-D St. cor. K-1st , Kamuning Road, QC. Call 4009/4000304.

"BETWEEN the Lines," by Gugy Duplon

Duplon at One Workshop Gallery

"Creation," an exhibit featuring renowned graphic designer Francisco Guyo Duplon, will be on view in One Workshop Gallery, 2244 La Fuente Pasay St., Salcedo III, cor. Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati, May 20-June 29. The exhibit features digital artworks, screen shots/actions, as an existential digression from the usual digital fine art that Duplon is known for. His new series of abstractions takes advantage of light and colors, making the pieces versatile and familiar for any home and office interior.

New at Boston Gallery

Award-winning sculptor Joel Lamangan presents his new sculptures in "Santo-rantchas," until May 30 in Boston Gallery, 13 Boston St., Cubao, QC. The title alludes to a controversial interpretation of the saints. Call 7256836 or visit www.bostonbookgallery.com.

Cuil in London exhibit

Award-winning Filipino watercolorist Rafael Cuil showcases his recent series of paintings in a week-long solo exhibit at Crouch Gallery in Cornwall, London, starting May 12. Cuil presents seascapes inspired by the marine and beaches of Cornwall. The exhibit is organized and presented by Gloria Ortiz-Hicks. Call 887-17-88/8182 or e-mail hello@philippinecultural.com.

"CORNWALL," by Rafael Cuil

Traveling exhibit at Ayala Museum

The Alliance Française de Manille, French Embassy and Ayala Museum present "Objects! Paris," until June 17, in the ground floor gallery of Ayala Museum. "Objects! Paris" is part of this year's celebration of French Spring in Manila 2007. Call 7577777 ln 37 local 58.

'Chinese Diaspora' at the Ayala

"Chinese Diaspora: Art Streams from the Mainland" is on its last month run at Ayala Museum. Ongoing until May 27, the exhibition presents 45 key artworks that address the theme of Chinese diaspora and its local transformations in Southeast Asia. Call 7577777 local 58 or 8811 4646/57.

Lindslee's animal farm

The other works are pure mixed-media abstraction that builds on Lindslee's old strengths in composition, color contradistinction and scale

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE ABSTRACTION OF LINDSLEE takes a figurative turn in a multipiece show that is very literal, ludicrous, "cartoonic," opening May 26 at The Drawing Room.

The show, consists of Lindslee's standard stained media, but this time, the media consist not only of paint and scrap but also of sculpture and taxidermy. The last is a new development in Lindslee's art, providing a counterpoint and a critique to the abstraction.

In the taxidermic works, animals are placed in various situations that are said to depict the human situation. In the installation "Sheep Sty Side," a stuffed white duck sits on a white pillow that rests on a dark-colored board or platform. The bird's whiteness is broken by splotches of Lindslee's usual industrial colors. Soy fertilizer are stuffed in some parts, with a few quill-like feathers strewn about.

The whiteness may refer to the beauty of dreams (dreams may be described poetically as a flight with wings), while the colors may recapture the darkness of life.

So why should sheep be for sale? Perhaps because in the fatty-body of commodity-late existence, with its deadline and stress, sheep may yet be the scarcest commodity, the rarest ungulate [sic].

The poultry allegory is extended to piggery in "Pork Chop Explosion," in which a pig stands above a painting of Lindslee with some of the colors on its flowers, snout, limbs and back. The gestures of the swine mimic it appear finally finishing the painting, like Pollock dripping paint onto canvas.

Pitchfork [sic] in the air, they have a menacing, the incidental anxiety of animals. Like Titus elaborate paintings on a board) or depicting the animal incident that sometimes drives the artistic process.

Industrial critique

But to extend the industrial critique and the metaphor on domesticated animals, the artist may be saying the art business has made many of some artists, featuring not the high stakes of the industry, but not realizing they have been domesticated by the art market.

In this sense, the wild colors of the Fauvists, for example, do not really symbolize defiance of established conventions but an agitation. Artistic subversion has become cultivated, like developers enchanting the while, artists have become tattooed pigs.

The critique seems to have been expanded in "Chicken Art," in which a chick stands in the middle of a mixed media on canvas, its beak pointed down to the right end of the painting (above there's a sculpture of a dinosaur).

The title connotes the art of the feeble-brained and the small-minded, controlled by the puppet-fuck that can only mind more and help-less at the artistic flowering before. Of course, the flow do by may also be the "chicken out" itself, an artistic convention and a deep-seated cliché that the chick may either aspire for or look down on.

The other works are pure mixed-media abstraction that builds on Lindslee's old strengths in composition, color contradistinction and scale (the dimensions are at 9ft. 4ft or 7ft. 5ft.). Some of the works are titled "Abstraction," as if to complement the taxidermic and sculptural installation paintings.

Tangible figures

The addition of tangible figures to the abstract works enhances the critique of abstraction that often divides the critic to achieve a purity of art that is wordless and associative, of which the most supreme example is Rothko. The Rothkoid abstraction is expected to battle or impossible by the tangibility and visibility of the world that art seeks to depict.

Striving to achieve a purity of art, abstraction retires to contemporary.

The introductory study involves the combination of Rauschenberg, the proto-famous of which is perhaps "Monogram" (1955-59, now with the Stockholm Moderna Museum), in which a stuffed goat with a rubber tire around its middle is exhibited (with paint much like in Lindslee's painting).

Together with Jasper Johns, Rauschenberg signaled the move away from abstract Expressionism, and that signal Lindslee seems to have taken much to heart in his own works.

Lindslee's "Retreat" opens May 26, 4:30 p.m., at The Drawing Room Showcase Bldg., 1005 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. It runs until June 16. (All ARTIST unavailable)

Lindslee's animal farm

"Animan," opening on May 26 at The Drawing Room, consists of the artist's standard mixed media, with sculpture and taxidermy as counterpoint

THREE Plucked Strings from Israel

WHAT'S ON
AT ROBINSONS

DIAO PERALTA

Cultural awakening in Dumaguete

By Ian Rosales Casocot
Contributor

IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE standing ovation that greeted them at the height of the Second International Bandalla Festival in Dumaguete City's Claire Isabel McGill Luce Auditorium, Yuval Avital of Three Plucked Strings had this to say to the audience, "You live in paradise."

It was then that a nod to the restless hustles and clean blue skies for the acclaimed Israeli musician and composer. There's something to be said about the indelible explosion of things cultural in Dumaguete over the past few weeks.

This is a city trying to recapture the mantle of being the preeminent Cultural Center of the South—a title which it seemed to be on the brink of losing to neighboring Cebu. For the longest time, Dumaguete culture was mostly classical concerts, tired Broadway renditions, or parades without vision.

But there has always been a culture of the artistic kind in Dumaguete, which is home to two National Artists (Edith Tiempo for literature and Eddie Romero for film, to the early days of Silliman University at the turn of the last century. Shakespearean plays were regular (and much-attended) fare in the old amphitheater, and an impressive string of internationally renowned performers—imagine Le Grand Ballet Classique de France dancing in an old Visayan-turned gymnasium...had enriched Dumaguete's small town pride.

When the Luce Auditorium, a gift of Time magazine founder Henry Luce III, was finished in 1975, it offered a cultural gold rush, prompting even Luce to jocularly announce to the New York Times in 2000 that it was "the best performance space in the Philippines outside of Manila."

Enviable cultural climate

True enough, the Luce stage...and Dumaguete's enviable cultural climate (with institutions such as art connoisseur Albert Bacero, writers Edilberto and Edith Tiempo, ethnomusicologist Ricardo Magdaleno Abraham, and dancer Luz Jocson) unveiling long-hoarding traditions)—has provided the rise in prominence of local artists such as Junix Inocian, who would become The Engineer in "Miss Saigon;" Ferrol Flowers founder Amiel Inciong; violinist Edwin Antonio; and Basil Pfeiffer, now the toast of international contemporary art, the inaugural recipient of the Rockefeller Award given by the Whitney Museum of American Art. And these are only a few names.

The Luce stage, too, has seen the likes of Cecile Licad, Nicole Cabell, Gerwin Eisenhauer, violinist Anna Fusek, Cremaster harpist Deirdre Irons, Susan Plumlee, Ballet Manila, Repertory Philippines, Bayanihan, Ballet Philippines and Dulaang UP perform for an increasingly discriminating Dumaguete audience, whose cultural education may be one of the best in the country.

And rightly so, as subsidized-cum-concern of Silliman's Cultural Affairs Committee, a typical P500-P1,000 ticket price for a show by a major performing company in, say, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, can be had for as low as P100 in the Luce. In Dumaguete, culture is a steal.

But for the past five years—save for occasional guest staffs in the annual parade of Silliman Elga fairs in 2001 and a controversial staging of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" by the Teen Voice Company in 2000—there was a slow-burning clamorous, perhaps caused by the malaise of logic, 11.

And yet, for the moment, the arts...music, dance, painting, film, literature—seem to have found haven in a singular place: Wake up in Dumaguete these days, and always

CULTURAL, D3

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR SY 2007 - 08

Need help with tuition fees? Apply for a Personal Loan today.

- Borrow from Php10,000 up to Php500,000 for as low as 1.22%* monthly add-on interest
- Approval in as fast as 5 working days
- Payable up to 36 months
- No collateral required

FREE last monthly installment for 24 and 36-month terms loans**

131 Years

Call (02) 830-5400
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest branch

HSBC
The world's local bank

Awesome pianism wows audience

Russian pianist Sergey Kuznetsov's recent recital was marked by virtuoso playing, technical prowess and exquisite artistry

By Arsenio C. Hilo
Contributor

RUSSIAN PIANIST SERGEY KUZNETSOV owed Manila's audience with a marvelous recital entitled "Pianistic Pleasures" at the Philamlife Theatre.

It does not take long to listen to Kuznetsov to recognize that he was world-class pianist, in the tradition of grand pianists.

First is the quality of sound he coaxed from the keyboard. Russians are known for their enviable sound—robust and lush, with rich colors and touches. So Kuznetsov is brought about by a well-crafted technique that allows the sound to conquer with startling clarity.

With hand effort, the sound comes out with a symphonic sonority capable of filling up the hall. The allure in this kind of performance does not depend on the pianist's hand-separation or choreographic movement, which are often done to visually enhance sound production.

Kuznetsov play demonstrated that bodily movements have to bearing at all in producing his vibrant and dynamic sound. His sonority and dynamism were the result of a well-honed technique, rather than choreographic mannerisms that at times could become mere distractions.

Such a performance is not, however, just marked by this big "Russian sound." It is not at all a travesty of fragrance, but a playing tempered by a singing touch made more appealing by a legato line, an articulate voicing of chords, or a fine blending of the notes, plus a kind of broad dynamics used to define the particular mood of each piece.

The ability of the pianist to connect with the piano's keyboard to achieve big barrier flows, his artistic imagination and musical understanding are summoned.

Such imagination must be based and focused on an understanding of the stylistic requirements of the pieces, to closely capture the spirit or image of the particular stylistic period represented by the composer's mode.

Kuznetsov brought out all these points in his playing. He kept the audience at the edge of their seats, so to speak, with his virtuoso playing, marked by technical prowess and exquisite artistry.

Legato—singing lines—were in abundance in the two movement Beethoven work, the Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90. Strict command and poetic charisma towered in Tchaikovsky's Scherzo Humoristique, Op. 19, No. 2; and "Meditation" from Eighteen Pieces, Op. 72, respectively.

He combined sensitive lyricism, acute tonal balance in voicing, and intuitive rhythmical drive to bring out the arresting beauty of Ravel's "Gaspard de la nuit." That masterful touch made listening to his playing a truly fine, exhilarating experience.

Utmost virtuosity rode high in the works of Scriabin and Chopin, two senators of demanding pianism.

It was more in the latter's work, the third sonata of Chopin, Sonata in B Minor, Op. 58, where Kuznetsov showed his firm grasp of technique, but still in service to the interpretative genius. He amply showed this in the B. role, which he played with exciting dispatch.

All told, the tonal recital of Kuznetsov was a sufficient musical event. The lingering were this awesome pianist. Music News and Features downers heard praise and good wishes for his future presentations.

California-based tenor performs at Meralco

LEE MANY CITTO CUPINDA

In the classical field forced by circumstances to pursue destinations abroad, California-based tenor Jed Blaisik has always welcomed opportunities to perform in his homeland. So has, there is nothing like the applause and appreciation of a Filipino audience.

Blaisik returns to Manila as "Le Concert Champs," presented by PLDT and produced by VIDA Concerts with production management by Music In Her Genius, on July 27, 7 p.m., at the Meralco Theater.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Music with majors in Voice and Flute, Blaisik went to the faculty of the College, member and senior soloist of the Philippine Madrigal Singers prior to leaving for abroad.

He has appeared in over 50 productions of the Los Angeles Opera and the Los Angeles Music Chorale since 1995, and has held major roles in the New York at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall, Royce Hall at UCLA, Montclair Museum in New Jersey, among others appeared in operas at the Iverside Chamber Institute in Los Angeles, was part of numerous performances with the Philippine Ambassador's residence in Washington, DC, to mark the celebration of the Philippine Centennial in 1998, and was honored with an award of Excellence in 2000 from the Philippine Tri-Media Group of Companies at the Los Angeles Convention Center during the 102nd Philippine Independence Celebration.

In the Philippines, Blaisik has appeared at the CCP in the opera "La Boheme," "La Lobo Negra," and "Noli Me Tangere", was guest soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and "Mass Solemnis," Juan Luna' "Christmas Oratorio," and Orff's "Carmina Burana."

He has also joined the Philippine Opera Company's "An Evening with Puccini" (directed by Ilya Quinto) featuring excerpts from the composer's great operas: "La Boheme," "Madame Butterfly," "Tosca" and "Turandot."

He also sings the role of Juan Luna in a CD recording of "Spoliarium," the opera on the tragic life of the great Filipino artist, written by Ryan Cayabyab and Felipe Dumpit-Antonio, with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Music Chorale.

"Le Concert Champs" will have as guests soprano Rachelle Cornelius and violinist Joseph Molino of the Pandayan Virtuosi string ensemble of Cebu Boligans. Conductor and arranger is Ryan Cayabyab of the PPOV ng ensemble is Ms. Carmen Echevarria. for inquiries on tickets, call 4120733 or 9280462.

"Hot Child in Red Is The Most Beautiful Bird on Photoshop, taken with a Sony Ericsson K790i by Shanti Pokharel

"SILVER Lining." by Rony Koh (Malaysia), taken with a Sony Ericsson W810 Walkman at Bandar Sunrise, Malaysia

Award-winning images and the phone cams behind them

IMAGES TAKEN WITH A VARIETY OF SONY Ericsson phones were among the top winners of Windows Into Asia, a joint promotional campaign of the National Geographic Channel (NGC) and Sony Ericsson.

Windows into Asia involved photography enthusiasts from the Philippines, Australia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand. National Geographic, known for its excellent photography, teamed up with Sony Ericsson in a campaign to share different facets of Asian life and culture through Sony Ericsson camera phones.

The online mobile phone photography event elicited over 1,200 entries and was judged by a panel of experts, including NGC creative director Quentin Tong and renowned National Geographic Adventure photographer Matthew Meier.

The grand prize winning entry, "Red City" showcased a cousin colored in red, with Singapore dressed up in red lanterns, flowers and decorations, symbolizing happiness and prosperity for Chinese New Year. The entry was captured by the winner on his K800i Cyber-shot phone, which features a 3.2-megapixel camera with Autofocus, Xenon flash and Image Stabilizer. Sony Ericsson's unique Smile-

WINNING ENTRY "Red City." by Stefanus Eliot (Singapore), taken with a Sony Ericsson K800

tionality pill and online imaging phone, also emerged as one of the most-used phone models in the contest.

Especially picture quality was captured by celebrity models of the Sony Ericsson Xperia of camera phones. "Waiting in the City", a photo of a woman taken in the Forbidden City in China, submitted by Jessica Tanseca of the Philippines using the Sony Ericsson K610i, was just one of the winners from the Philippines. This slim 3G phone model offers a 2.0-megapixel camera and video recording.

More than 5,000 dancers swaying in Bali's Kecak Dance are depicted in the winning photo by Wade Nagy, taken with the Sony Ericsson K800i camera phone. Salman Khalid took the dazzling "Kasatka at Night" photo with his Sony Ericsson K2310 camera phone.

Although other brands were also represented among the winning images, the camera showcased the versatility and mobile imaging superiority of Sony Ericsson camera phones.

Winners from each of the seven participating countries won a Sony Ericsson K800i Cyber-shot phone. The grand prize winner, chosen from among the seven winners from each country, and his partner will join an exciting National Geographic expedition to "Mongolia: Land of the Nomad" in July.

Visit www.sonyericsson.com.

"WAITING in the City" by Jessica Tanseca (Philippines), taken with a Sony Ericsson K610i camera phone in the Forbidden City, Beijing, China

"DREAM Flower." by Rajasekaran P (India), taken with a Sony Ericsson W810i Walkman phone in Chennai, India

Cultural awakening . . .

From page D1

there is something to keep anyone's cultural calendar filled up. It may have started last September when Foundation University unleashed the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra as its initial offering for its cultural season at Bella Inday Hall; continuing on to an invaluable performance by Bayanihan Festival, and tonight on to the tribute for National Arts Enterprises February.

Rondalla festival

Recently, four international acts—the Islay Alkimiaroj Ensemble, Silhouette Kwintet, Asuara Quartette Phoenix, and Israel's Three Flutes Strings—gave a varied sampling of rondalla music in a packed Love Auditorium. It was, to be sure, a resounding success. The concert, billed as Etic Cantus in Philharmonia, found the audience grateful for the string renditions by the Hispanic troupes of traditional melodies (and some delightful non-traditional ones as well, including a rondalla version of Kid Kemler's "Super Mario Brothers" computer game soundtrack).

It was music to the ears, for discerning, cosmopolitan and unanimously-weird music. Three Plucked Strings' conceptual musical concept was, in turn, affecting and disturbing, from the more traditional "Awash Khaimo Suite" by Lucy Bekker to the playful "CLICK" by Jeffrey Agrusa to the hauntingly hypnotic "Dark City Alleys" which the trio played with Kastelan as a soundtrack of sorts to a projected 10-minute film of a walk through the dark byways of an Israeli city.

There was bright scene folkiness in Quartette Phoenix's rendition of the Dashiell American melody "El Cumbanchero" (done in bluegrass style), and Sicily Pachenitsky's "Black Bird." At the end of their repertoire, the Russian musicians brought the entire auditorium to a standing ovation.

Beyond string music, there is also the instrumental: Hamadeng Sarao with director Immanuel Soo Cruz and professor Raymond Lee, two cinematic stars responsible for two of the most acclaimed Filipino films in recent years: Sammy Rangga (directed by Carlo Caparas) and Ang Pagbabalagi ni Mariano Rivera (directed by Marvin Jolito).

The University of the Philippines Dance Company also performed with violinist's Raising Dance Studio in a dance concert filled with Spanish flamenco. The Philippine Madrigal Singers also performed in Dumaguete as part of the national outreach tour of "Sana Ikaw Mo Din Ang Sa Iyo."

The Second Dumaguete Biennial and Arts Festival will be held this year.

Meanwhile, Silliman is currently hosting the Dumaguete National Writers Workshop—the oldest creative writing workshop in Asia.

Finally, a cultural avalanche in the magnets? That seems to be the case.

Flamenco at the mall

WORLD-RENOWNED FLAMENCO artist Clara Rosaleda presents the universality of flamenco in "Sonque Flamenca," a theatrical production showcasing the acclaimed dancer's original choreographic pieces.

The show, to be held on June 5 at 3M Mall of Asia's Carnelthage, will combine both the roots and the familiar in an effort to immerse the virtuosity of flamenco and Spanish dance into a deep and vital human experience for the audience.

The repertoire will attempt to define the heritage that binds Filipinos to the ancient Spanish art born by way of desert-inflected music, song and dance. "Inspiracion Iberia Flamenca" for instance, features choreographic pas-that underscores the Spanish dancer's expressive range through movement and classic interpretation. The show will also feature authentic live music from Kebagyana.

Call 891-9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph. Tickets are also available at selected National Bookstore branches, select Ayala Malls Cinema Department Stores, Rustan Gee Makati and Makati), and Ayala Malls Cinemalbal Cebu.

Visit the Clara Rosaleda Centro de Danza Flamenco studio located at 5317 Alger St., Bel-Air, Makati City (possible to Rockwell) now, call 889-2346/891-2, email: info@clararosaleda.com.ph or visit www.clararosaleda.com.

Grace Nono concert as workshop showcase

"TISIG," A LIVE CONCERT PERFORMance of Grace Nono on June 1, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Peta Theater Center, will offer sacred chants and testimonies by the internationally-

renowned music artist, teacher, researcher and cultural worker. Parts of her repertoire were performed in 2006 in Monte Carlo, New York and Los Angeles for international and Filipino audiences.

Nono's concert will also serve as the showcase production of the lights and sound design workshops to be conducted by Ning Arvin Khalfa.

The "Awareness of Light" workshop is a week-long master class workshop on lights design facilitated Nonoted "Broke" Monuments, one of the most-live landing lights exhibitors for theater. The workshop will run at the Gang Arts Studio Mar 21-27, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. The lighting workshop will be very useful to anybody working with lights, such as artchitects, photographers, interior designers, set designers, and aspiring light designers for theater and dance productions. Fees is P4,000 inclusive of materials and two meals.

"Soundscape," meanwhile is an "Immersive Workshop on Basic Sound for Live Performances." The three day basic sound design course conducted by top sound engineers Arthur Asuncion will run May 23, 24 and 26 at Ning Arts Studio, 14 a.m.-9 p.m. Fee is P5,000 inclusive of lunch and meals.

Nono's "Tisig" concert will be the final culminating activity of the workshop participants. Tickets

prices are P1,000, P800 and P600.

Visit the Ning Arts Office or 0646 Sen Ignacio St., Barangay Philamlim, Mandaluyong. Call 531-3051 or 951-9999, or fax to 725-6244/938-0822/725-8604. E-mail admin@ning-arts.org or visit http://www.ning-arts.org.

Grant writing and advocacy workshops

NEED RESOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZAtion to stay alive? How about letting the world know about your organization exists and needs public support?

A grant writing workshop will be held on May 30 at the Ortigas Library covering research techniques, elements of a proposal, winning style and successful pitches that secure winning proposals. A writing exercise is included.

An organization needs to distinguish itself from the rest and generate its pores convincingly and gain commitments. On May 31, an advocacy writing workshop will be held at the Ortigas Library covering the elements of a powerful news article, samples of persuasive advocacy pieces and scoping publicity.

Both whole-day workshops will be led by John L. Allen, a professional fund raiser and advocacy writer for various local and international clients.

Workshops are at P5,000 each, starting 9 a.m. and ending 5 p.m. The Ortigas Library is at 3/F Ortigas Building located at the corner of Meralco and Ortigas Avenues in Pasig. E-mail: jallen979@mac.com or call/text 0920-7299009.

For more detailed information about both workshops, visit blogsite http://johnallen.blogspot.com/2007/05/advocacy-and-grant-writing-seminars.html.

Rizal's 'Noli' on canvas

THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTItute presents "Jose Rizal's Noli Me Tangere," an exhibit of oil paintings by Leonardo T. Cruz at the Rizal Shrine, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, on June 1 starting 5 p.m.

The exhibit is in commemoration of the 116th birth anniversary of our national hero. Cruz's paintings vividly illustrate scenes from the novel as he has visualized them. The vibrant hues and intrinsic brush strokes capture the novel's feelings arising from the scenes. Cruz's works are a celebration of the richness of our cultural heritage.

The artist has held several one-man shows and participated in a number of group shows as well as in other notable exhibitions in the 1st International Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings held in China in 1999.

Call 524-9935, 525-3039 or 301-1675. E-mail:leonardotcruz@gmail.com or rizelpen@sanarge.com

SLIMMERS WORLD

Making Fit Bodies for Bikinis: Slimmers World Bikini Bodies 2007

FITNESS, SKIN, SLIMMING & FACIAL DYNAMICS ARE OUR BUSINESS.

BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH FREE!

CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 536-3333

CALL US: SKIN HOTLINE 525-8771

MOBILE NUMBER: 0917-SLIMMERS

Baritone Andrew Fernando in new "Pocahontas" opera in Virginia, USA

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE CELEBRATION OF JAMESTOWN'S 400th anniversary in Virginia started this month with the visit of Queen Elizabeth, in whose honor a proper dinner was hosted by President Bush who goofed on the Queen's age and made it close to Virginia's founding year.

The Virginia Arts Festival followed with performances by pianist Andrei Michel-Schub with the Virginia Symphony and violinist Gil Shaham and company, who belong to the "What's Wise in Chamber Music," and a memorable appearance of violinist Midori Goto.

The centerpiece of the celebration was the world premiere last Saturday of the chamber opera "Pocahontas" with music by Linda Tutas Haugen. The title refers to the American Indian princess Pocahontas, who might as well be seen as the "indigenous lovelet" between native Virginian Powhatans and the English colonists.

The role of Pocahontas, the father of Dorothy Jemison, was sung by Filipino baritone Andrew Fernando, who was based in Manila in the U.S. at the role of "Virginia Oregon" in Corwin and early this year in the title role of "Napoleon" in Calderon.

"The opera was a super production," Fernando told the Inquirer on the night of the last orchestral rehearsal.

After his Virginia engagement, Fernando will be heard in Boston in Barrell's "Bluebird Castle" and then will proceed to Manila to join the Great Performances Series at the Philamlife Theater by way of a special Aug. 18 recital with pianist Mary-Anne Espina.

(For inquiries on Fernando's Aug. 18 homecoming recital, call (02) 988-7020 or 897-2971 or cell 0906-3.04[illegible].)

ANDREW Fernando, baritone

RAUL Sunico, pianist

Fundraising concert

There was a lot to admire in the fundraising concert of soprano Ramona Mirlas, who is also a film producer and a folk dancer, at the Church of Risen Lord in Diliman in April.

For one who started voice lessons less than two years ago, the vocal output was solid and she astounded a bigger surprise: She acted what she sang.

With superb accompaniment by pianist Mary Anne Espina, Mirlas had a mixed program of Filipino songs, operatic arias and excerpts from operettas and the inevitable Broadway entries.

Like "O mio babbino caro" had a fragile, powerful angst, and her "Mein Herr (from *Cabaret*)" from "Die Fledermaus") had a sing-kid quality.

Her "Signore, ascolta" (from "Turandot") and "Ave Maria" (from "Otello") were, however, a case of too much too soon for her voice, but she acquitted herself quite well.

Her guest singer, tenor Jhosfi Ong, was competent in "Nessun dorma," and the two sailed into the Broadway number "Last Night of the World" with confident delight.

Their recital was a fundraising concert for the Mayamong Alyche Foundation and culminated in a raffle of artworks by noted artists.

MAKILING Ensemble |

make it happen

The future is in your hands. John Robert Powers has a program just for you to make it happen! Modeling. Acting. Personal Development. Executive Grooming. Earn the worldwide John Robert Powers Diploma.

CALL NOW: 892 9511 or 927 0465

John Robert Powers

www.johnrobertpowers.com

Cayetano Building, 106 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City — Ground Floor, Crossroads Building, 825 EDSA, Quezon City

FREE CONSULTATION. 0% INTEREST. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

The world premiere of the chamber piece, with music by Linda Tutas Haugen, was in celebration of America's 400th founding anniversary

Raul Sunico, on life as a performing artist, conservatory head and cultural worker

How does it feel to perform in an intimate venue where audiences are practically a breathing distance away?

An intimate setting enables the performers to render pieces that do not require grandeur or broad venues. As such, even miniature pieces such as Mussolini, Poulenc, and the like are given more scope attention. I used to be quite concerned when my audience was practically breathing down my neck.

Nowadays, I have gotten used to it as I've experienced a number of instances when the hall was not that big and people were seated practically next to me.

It also helped me that I have been giving lecture concerts, so I am less scared of people watching me.

How do you find time to practice with your hands full as head of UST's Conservatory of Music, NCCA commissioner and other cultural ventures? You will conduct a music camp in Nueva Ecija before your Makati concert.

Most of my rehearsals are done at home late at night, when my work in the office and other social commitments are already done. It is a bit challenging to fight off fatigue and sleepiness, but when there are deadlines to meet or pieces to perform, the incentive is strong enough to do what has to be done.

When I became head of the conservatory, I only had the haziest idea of what to do, since I never had any administrative experience before.

However, my vision of elevating the status and stature of the Filipino musician became my guiding principle as I sought to update the curriculum, invite local and foreign lecturers and performers, organize pat listening sessions, and even send soloist performing ensembles abroad.

It also became a sort of philanthropic mission as I could not resist helping out the more talented music students who did not have the necessary resources to pursue their craft. I am quite happy though that in addition to my own contributions, I have tapped a number of friends of mine who are just too eager to provide scholarships.

What would you say is the future of classical music and classical musicians in the country?

The future of classical music depends on a number of factors—government support, private sector support, media exposure, increase in the proportion of music lovers in the school curriculum, elevation of artistic standards, and cooperation among musicians. It is a tall order, and oftentimes, one or more of these factors is missing. However, this does not deter us from exercising our own small part towards a noble end.

Casa San Miguel opens 14th Pundaquit Festival

THE 14TH PUNDAQUIT FESTIVAL OF THE Casa San Miguel Foundation in San Antonio, Zambales opens on May 26 with concerts and exhibits featuring its pianists and scholars, as part of its mission of nurturing artistic excellence in the coastal community.

The event is also in observance of the second death anniversary of Rosario R. Beltejar, one of Casa San Miguel's founding members and patrons.

On May 26, 8 p.m., 18-year-old violinist Joseph Valdes takes centerstage in a recital at the Ramon Cerpua Hall with pianist Ruth Quiñones.

His repertoire includes Bach's G Minor Solo Sonata, Beethoven's Sonata No. 6 (p.1 Major, Mozart's Theme and Five Variations, Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Reed Flutes, Sarasate's Zapateado, and Wieniawski's Caprice No. 5.

Valdes started as violin at age nine as part of the Waldorf School Program before graduating to Coke Bolipata to include of Ateneo de College's Junior Int. Appointed Music. He gave his first solo recital at age 14 at Casa San Miguel. Currently a junior student at the Ateneo High School, he was a spokesperson for Pesaff's Pro Liberal Program, which brought him to performances across the Philippines.

JOSEPH VALDES, violinist

On May 27, 3 p.m., CASA San Miguel will launch its annual exhibit of pictures and text [illegible] their views at the Ramona Hall.

On display are the latest art works of Pat Beltejar, both those her residency grant at the Vermont Art Center, Carlo Galasco, Jun Lemay, Rose Zaniel Martinez, Brendale Tadeo and Jose Gabriel Ilo.

Galasco is a 2006 Philippine Art Awards finalist, Rose is a Metrobank BMOE grand prize winner in sculpture and received plaudits at the Shell Art Competition in 2004 and 2006, Mariano a 2002 Petron Art Competition finalist, and Salubayba an Asian Cultural Council grantee.

The launch will be followed by a concert featuring the musical selection and guitarists of CASA San Miguel, with the special participation of the Mandaluyong Ensemble, a student group from the Philippine High School for the Arts in Los Baños.

Call 911-2002 and 900-8607 for more details.

Diageo Philippines, Inc. (formerly International Distillers Philippines, Inc.) apologizes to Mr. Ariel "Aga" Muhlach for the inclusion of his picture and his name, without his consent, in the Smirnoff Mule advertisement published in the Lifestyle Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on 20 September 1999 and for whatever anxiety that said advertisement may have caused him.

LIFESTYLE

Baguio, yet again

Here's to the City of Pines, which opens its arms to us, and continues to gift us with small surprises every single time

By Cristina Pamoja Hidalgo
Contributor

MANY OF MY FRIENDS don't particularly like Baguio anymore. One of them just goes up every Holy Week from habit more than anything else.

It's a family ritual—the entire clan goes up, including grandparents and babies. But they never leave the Country Club except to go on shopping to John Hay's Mile High and for Vivo Igloos on Holy Thursday.

Another one, who hadn't been up for some time, went for a meeting, and was shocked at how dirty and smoky Session Road had become. And a third, when she heard we had gone up again this summer, roared: "Is it as cold, or just polluted?"

But Tom and I are incorrigible about Baguio. With the big house being yours whenever we were living overseas, we never failed to make the trip up whenever we were in Manila on leave.

We have photos recording each designer's fine city claws: mounted on a "bronco" in Wright Park; being tossed by the father on the lake in Burnham Park, grinning beside the flowers in Botanic Park (now the Baguio Botanical Garden); standing under the pines outside Hyacinth, getting up and down the "tranquil rose vibrator" in the fenced Rose Museum.

And there were the silver rituals made linked by our parents: a tic-tic-tap lunch at Star Bowl, breakfast of scrambled eggs and bacon at Star Cafe, a visit to the St. Louis silver shop for filigreed silver trinkets (an older shop did such fine work—there was a post mortem), a visit to the Good Shepherd convent for ube jam and strawberry jam and peanut brittle (an inferior producer, even some claim, Carmen's Salad at Rachel's on Session Road).

Later there was antique hunting in Matthias gado-gado salad and Ube Rich sandwich at Cafe by the Ruins, Mongolian Barbecue at Chinese Kitsch, woven pillowcases and bags at Market!, December by the fireplace in a cottage in Camp John Hay.

When the kids were grown up/on had sets we left home, they actually chose a three-story white wooden home. While they decided on angle so they on we would have a room on second and third floor.

It's still there, that old-fashioned white house. We drive past it often and I get a little sad, missing that they were all little again. And I think the memory of those seniors spent with them in this mountain town is a

2 out of 3 Filipinos are proficient in English.

Let's make it 3 out of 3.

Tito Sembrano, study at:

VERNON TAPALLA'S

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFE — BY DOUG ABREH

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIL JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

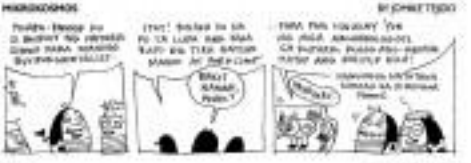
LOVENOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

ATOMIC AND WOODY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY [illegible]

RIKO MACHINE — BY [illegible]

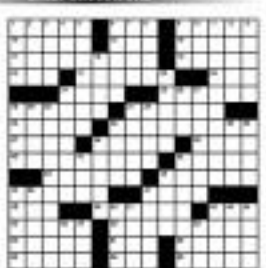
MAGNOSAURS — BY JONNETTSOO



TULODE — BY RAFU AND TATUM HILARIDES

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Annalee Richards
Williamsburg, VA

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

4	8	2						
				9			7	3	2
		7	2					4
	3				6	5	1	
7	4			1			6	3
	1	6	9				7	
8					5	3		
9	5	1		6				
						1	2	5

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	8	3	2	9	1	7	5	6
5	2	1	8	6	7	3	9	4
7	9	6	5	3	4	8	2	1
6	5	9	4	1	3	2	7	8
2	1	4	9	7	8	6	3	5
3	7	8	6	5	2	1	4	9
1	4	7	3	8	9	5	6	2
8	6	5	1	2	4	9	3	7
9	3	2	7	6	5	4	1	8

ROLAND Tolentino, Mark Cayanan, Jimmy Abad, Nicky de Ungria, Chingbee Cruz, Mahinal Anne Brenda, Jun Cruz Reyna, Edgar Kanlaon, Jerry Gracio, Vim Nadera (second row) Marlyn Villanueva, Larry Ypil, Kimi Rivera, Ralph Galan, Garyll Orbeta, Ria Hidalgo, Sandra Roldan, Butch Dollag, Mariano Ariel Ria Rivera, Charlson Ong, Adam David, Lilit Santiago, Hiyasmin Neri (third row) Bose Villanueva, Dennis Teodosio, Jose Ansio, Neil Garcia

Baguio, yet again

From page E1

now one more reason for returning to it.

Writers' workshop

This summer, I went up, first, for the UP National Writers' Workshop, which, since 1994, has been held there. This time we were booked at the AIM Lodge, inside Camp John Hay.

A wonderful choice, as John Hay is one of the few spots in the city where the pine fragrance remains, and the air is clean and fresh. And the lodge is just down the road from House of Pinoys, which allowed us to use their Wi-fi connection for free.

The visit from University of the Philippines Diliman chancellor Carey L. Gee, the workshop's chief sponsor, was a first. Gerry made it both in the round-table discussion on current trends in Philippine literature held in UP linguistic and to the workshop graduation and dinner, even staying to join with the fellows afterward.

There was also the dinner and impromptu poetry reading at Bencab's sprawling, terraced farm in Asin, where both his home and his studio still soon be located. The stimulating, generous National Artist has been our host on many times that the UP-ICW ought to make him an honorary fellow.

Another highlight was Fellows' Night held at Iggy's. Dai Ibuklem's photo, which is now open at a restaurant but a museum and art gallery, showcasing Dai' personal collection of precious Philippine art. And for the breathtaking panoramic view of the city from the balcony-patio. Second to Cecilia Tolentino-Arellano's top home—an artist's home, and a work of art in itself.

And Alaska and the music of Ge Gail, the band which we first discovered at Pilgrims Coffee on Session Road, followed us to Coastal Wood Drive, and discovered again at the Manor.

But despite all of this being great fun, for me, it was also work.

Not on the trip Tony and I took with Luz (the only one of our girls still living at home) some two weeks later. The city had been opened up (in time for the sembreak crowds perhaps), and an unexpected cold front had turned the nights chilly even if the days were golden bright.

Other city symptoms was the nightmarish traffic around that infamous curb the John gates were at the foot of the little hill leading to SM, which was holding a three-day sale. Why couldn't the city have installed traffic lights there, or, at the very least, sent a couple of cops to direct traffic?)

GLITTERY masks made of papier-mâché and resin, sold in Cheese Bistro, Mines View Park

Old haunts

We spent our days just hanging out in our old haunts—jogging out (the special biggest at Forest House, the fashionista put on Mel Khan, the photo shots at Mind Studio Studio at the top of SM, practically everything on the menu at Bistro) and drinking Pigues coffee—and our evenings listening to music at the Manor.

And then, one drowsy afternoon, we headed down the little place called Cuco's in Mines View Park, where we remember hood having the best chicken or kakiak in the world. We took it universal love, acting at the same table on the far end of the room, with the glass windows overlooking the mountains and the pine trees.

And then we noticed the pre-and-ink sketches of Philippine churches on the walls. Impressive done, and only P5,000 each. We were told by the owner, Carmen Fernandez, that the artist, Noel Bulos, was her husband's nephew that he used to live in Cuchon, but had just left for Japan where someone had given him a job—she wasn't sure what sort of job. Whatever it is, I hope it has something to do with art.

And I hope someone about to put up a café

PEN-AND-INK sketch by Noel Bulos, sold in Cuco's at Mines View Park

MASKS at mall décor

ANOTHER sketch by Bulos

and open up here to buy up the whole series (Tayabas, Lucban, Taal) on hang on to walls. In fact, I found myself wishing Tony and I were, in fact, landowners—The Manor, Bencab's place perfectly with the farmstory white house our daughters had picked out for us.

And then we found this nameless little shop—one of many lining the main strip in Mines View—with the loveliest masks.

Harlequin masks of all sizes, beautifully costumed, in glittery extravagant colors, bewildered, bewigmented, ready to be worn at glamorous masquerade balls; or pinned to walls in lieu of conventional paintings, or given as gifts to special friends; and, in miniature form, ready to be clipped on to door or window boards. They looked like they were made of porcelain but, in fact, were of papier-mâché and resin.

The adorably sold on the shop was owned by Jeanette Chavez, but she didn't know who actually made the masks. There were other interesting things in there—dried flowers arranged in clay pots, straw angels, origami purses, perched on ornamental boxes... Quite enchanting and quite out of place in the village.

Our last hotel was The next day, strolling down Session Road, looking for Da-day's newspapers, we passed into the shop called Philippine Treasures. The "treasures" are mock-glass coasters which actually occupy only one side of the room.

Coasters from every Filipino art era—baskets, wine holders, frames, coolers. And, to my pleasure surprise, those strings I first found in one of the souvenir shops in Mid High, but which has since disappeared, candle holders and lamps. Plus all manner of glass fixtures—in the traditional colors—powder blue shading into turquoise, rose quartz shading into amethyst, lemon yellow shading into amber, lime green shading into mint.

Ay, the sidelight, gone to a ruin! The souvenirs are there! And Quality Control.

So here's to the City of Pines, which opens its pines to us, and continues to gift us with small surprises every single time!

The Gospel of Winning, according to George Sison

By Alice Florendo
Contributor

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A winner—lovers, team players, politicians, beauty contestants, political candidates.

But it's not that kind of winning that George Sison in his inspirational book-let "I Am A Winner!" has focused his marvelous Mona Thought insights and inspiring style. It is winning on the side of Oneself, or what he calls your Forgotten Self, and on the side of the Universe, or what he also calls the Illustrious Oneness.

"You might whine: Couldn't I be a winner in the super-saving eyes of the U.S. Utopia Observer and my forgotten Self, and also win the CEO million lotto prize? Didn't ask Sison that, but I'm sure he'd say, I'm not a betting teller or an investments analyst, but one thing you can't win at once, he'd also pronounce, that whatever can never be winners.

You might whine: Couldn't I be a winner in the super-saving eyes of the U.S. Utopia Observer and my forgotten Self, and also win the CEO million lotto prize? Didn't ask Sison that, but I'm sure he'd say, I'm not a betting teller or an investments analyst, but one thing you can't win at once, he'd also pronounce, that whatever can never be winners.

The booklet may be an indication of the evolution of Sison, the high priest of the Temple of Peace, Unity and Prosperity (he's raised quite a number of eyebrows lately). Whereas before he'd refer to that benign and all-knowing being as the Universe, and us as the children of the Universe, in this booklet the language unambiguously calls up the name of God and quotes, with consummate studiousness, both the Old Testament and the Gospels of the Apostles, to confirm and back up his "living data of the mind."

Oriental principles

Combining, for instance, the Oriental principle of relaxation and meditating ("The moment there is tension, the mind stops working creatively") with biblical pronouncements ("In quietness and confidence shall be your strength"—Isaiah 30:15; "Be still, and know that I am God"—Psalm 46:10) marks a significant milestone in the journey of Sison from poetry and astrology and science of the mind to the enlightenment of the spiritual.

With some broad conclusions, Sison stresses: "The Holy Bible is more than a religious document. It is a masterful treatise on the workings of the human mind."

In typical George Sison style, the book is written with a light-hearted spirit (some of the happy experiences of Chopra) and illustrated with almost whimsical visuals (collages, for sure, to help you "visualize the ideas I am about to tell you").

Sison doesn't pretending and practicals, in his 160 short and succinct ways on practicing the living idea of One-mind.

Some says that "those who seek love never find it. Those who give it already have it."

Money don't always recognize this truth, but recognizing it will give richer treasure in this life. And when love ends on one note?

"When a lesson breaks," says the Sage, "it opens. Who says one person love again?" he also says. "When people around you no longer make you love yourself, it is time to move on." How the simple precept would make life easier for worried lovers and neglected and betrayed spouses.

Positive side

Problems have a positive side: "They always come bearing gifts," says Sison. And that bedeviling problem of an evil spirit? He explains: it is the "spirit of evil and not an evil spirit. The spirit of evil is lies, vengeance, hostility, ill will, jealousy and lust. They do indeed. "Now this has not occurred to us before!

Other precepts have more personal applications. May 84 says: "The people you admire reflect your potential." May 93: "What you cannot change, you cannot lose." May 77 is a lesson in politeness: "Never ask people how old they are; indeed ask them how long they are."

The prayer (May 76) I have misgivings about. It says: "Help us always to be as angels in disguise." One doubts both angels and disguise to speak to strangers or accept candies from them. I have told myself less than angelic supervisors talking to strangers at many airports and bus stations. You can't be too careful these days anyway, bad on us these years.

What I'm saying is that if you have to talk to strangers, be sure you clearly perceive the angel's wings behind them. Sure it can't tell you how to do that. Didn't ask George.

And others the precepts, followed faithfully, are not getting you anywhere near your dreamt goal, you ask yourself. What's happening? What went wrong? Where did I go wrong? Couldn't see. The Universe, the Ultimate Observer, the God of the Gospels, they don't show their cards.

But Sison offers a way to deal with it. He says "Just when you begin to doubt you're a winner, life always hates us are experiment tests the limit of your faith and your better believe it. It's a universal truth, it's God's truth.

George Sison only has to credit it, as May 66.

'Nineteen' going on forever

High school is as hellish as ever in Jodi Picoult's latest literary pity party

"Nineteen Minutes: A Novel"
By Jodi Picoult
(Atria Books, New York)
2007, 455 pages)

By Rael S. De Vera

JUST HOW BAD WAS GROWING UP for you? Jodi Picoult knows your pain. In book after best-selling novel, Picoult has clarified the essence of adolescence: how unbearably reachable tales about coming of age.

Yet with her 13th book, "Nineteen Minutes," Picoult could herself truly outdo herself age as a heroine.

Not only does she reunite loyal readers with characters from her earlier books, Picoult also employs her skill in manufacturing dialogue and building a believable, claustrophobic world of pressured teens and well-meaning but oblivious parents.

Seemingly normal

Sterling, New Hampshire is relatively comfortable, seemingly normal—until 17-year-old Peter Houghton's life changes everything.

"In 19 minutes, you can order a pizza and get it delivered," she writes. "You can read a story to a child or have your oil changed. You can walk a mile. You can save a life. In 19 minutes, you can stop the world, or you can jump off it. In 19 minutes, you can get revenge."

A shooting at Sterling High, lasting all of 19 minutes, shakes the entire town, leaving 10 dead. But the town is shocked by the identity of the shooter. 17-year-old Peter Houghton, a bright but bullied geek. Houghton refuses to talk even as the secretive Patrick DeMarco tries to piece together what happened. The only one-on-one set of Houghton's records shows "How many did I get?"

Yet Houghton's tale is only one of several that form the DNA of "Nineteen Minutes." Most immediate is that of Josie Cormier, a former friend of Peter's who has become one of the popular kids. Not only did Josie lose her boyfriend, Matthew Royston, in the shooting, but her mother, Alex, ends up on the judge about to hear the case.

That intersection lies at the center of "Nineteen Minutes," and Picoult is the author with the utmost control, confidently wrestling in decades before the shooting, hours after, then months before, then months after. It's a wonderfully unsettling but ultimately effective device that adds layers of increasing resonance to "Nineteen Minutes."

Readers get a good look at the lives of two families—the mom-and-mom Lowe-Houghtons, and daughters Josie, and college professor Lewis Houghton, midwife Lacy and son Peter—and how everything went wrong.

Parallel plots

Picoult lines up two parallel plots, the court case against Peter and the events that led him to do what he did. But there, as always, stories that resonate untold.

"By the time you read this, I hope to be dead," writes one of the teens, "this can't exist without what's happened; you can't take back a word that's already been said out loud. You'll think about me and wish that you had been able to talk me out of this."

Part of what makes Picoult so easy to read is how effortlessly she creates such persuasive self-loathing of the pre-adult stage. Her depiction of the shooting itself is hearingly effective.

As far as characters go, Alex Cormier is a quintessible chronicle as the flawed perfect mother, and Josie, on the other hand, is a very complex character who seems enslaved to the institution's needs. The secret that lies at the end of "Nineteen Minutes" is not only daring, if a bit strange, all things considered.

Along with other heavy-handed touches is chronicler Lewis Houghton studying the formula for happiness? Seriously?, the parent need for that big mute hamster "Nineteen Minutes" a bit more than expected as it leads to a limp conclusion.

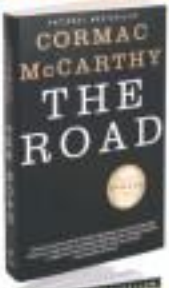
Yet even then, the ambitious, intertwined plot marks "Nineteen Minutes" as a thoroughly solid read. Picoult takes meticulous storytelling risks and yet still charms with her ear for dialogue.

Fewer's silence about his motivations only increase the tension and anyone who's ever been bullied or been an outcast in high school will feel sympathy for what they went through—even if you remain horrified by what he's done.

"Nineteen Minutes" is Jodi Picoult's best work so far, a shot right through the dark and light heart of the bright and benighted teenage years.

Available in paperback at Amoreal Book Store.

Book-club discussions



BEST KNOWN FOR HIS POWERFUL regional fiction ("Suttree," "Border Trilogy," "Blood Meridian"), Cormac McCarthy crafts tragic, unforgettable stories suffused with violence, alienation and an unbearably spare, poetic vision. In "The Road," considered Mr. Carthy's best novel to date, the apocalypse itself becomes a set piece. Unfolding in a terrifying future where demagoguism has been waged and lost, this sweeping novel traces the odyssey of a father and his young son through a desolate landscape of devastation and danger. Magnificent and moving by any standard, this is McCarthy at his greatest and gravest.

A novel about friendship and betrayal, and about the price of loyalty, "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, centers on the bonds between fathers and sons, and the power of fathers' (and sons-in-law) love, their sacrifices and their lies. Written against a backdrop of history that has not been portrayed in fiction before, "The Kite Runner" describes the rich culture and beauty of a land in the process of being destroyed, first through the devastation, then, ethnic ethics begin through the nonetheless in the power of reading and storytelling, and in the possibilities he shows us for redemption.

Join the Power Book Club discussions for "The Road" on May 20, 6:30 p.m., at Powerbooks Greenbelt, and May 30, 6:30 p.m., at Powerbooks Megamall; for "The Kite Runner."

Powerbooks Specialty Store has branches at Greenbelt 4 (576-0420-29), SM Megamall (632-2898-99), Alabang Town Center (850-5462-63), Glorietta 3 (729-7854), Ortigas Ctr. (638-8321/26), Robinson's Place Ermita (525-1034, 524-1488), SM Mall of Asia (556-0244) and Festival Supermall (860-6221).

New poetry collections

HIGH CHAIR WILL LAUNCH THREE NEW poetry collections on May 25, 5 p.m., at the UP Press Bookstore, Bahay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines Diliman.

Titles to be launched are Marc Gelo'i "Tow Bound Invention: A Suite," José Perez Rodrigo's "Scene," and Meanshed Vitrano Aguador's "Kwela Kwela Long Shakta."

A founding member of High Chair, Dalisay received his MFA in Creative Writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Last year, he won the Boston Review Poetry Prize.

Rodrigo finished his MFA in Creative Writing at Goucher College and now holds a teaching post there. He is a Filipino.

Aguador is the author of two previous collections of poetry, "Mensa Kreatura" and "Ita Sun," for which he won a Palanca award.

The event will also coincide with the launch of the seventh issue of High Chair's online poetry journal (www.highchair.com.ph).

Featured are new poems by American poet Frank Ballard, Thomas Sharon, Oliver Ortega, Marvin Cabrigas, Alfred Kwiatkowski as well as critical essays on poetry by Galas, Conchitina Cruz and Shiela David.

High Chair is a nonprofit small press that aims to promote genuine interest in poetry in the Philippines. Apart from maintaining an online poetry website, it already publishes full-length books and chapbooks.

E-mail highchair@gmail.com.

Mojares kicks off UP Baguio centennial lecture series

THE 10th CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES OF the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) kicks off on June 18 with culture critic and literary historian Resil Mojares delivering the inaugural lecture.

His lecture, "Isabelo's Archive: The Importance of Isabelo de los Reyes to Philippine Intellectual Life," stems from his most recent book, "Brains of the Nation," published by the Ateneo University Press in 2006. Mojares will discuss how Isabelo's body of works provides guideposts in terms of the agenda, content, language and forms of Filipino scholarship.

Born in Vigan, Isabelo de los Reyes is known in Philippine history as one of the major Propagandists and founder of the first workers' union in the Philippines. He also delivered a manifesto for the establishment of the Philippine Independent Church.

Mojares is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of San Carlos in Cebu. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Philippine culture and society. His book "The Man Who Is Filipino" is considered by many as one of the most important contributions to Philippine literary scholarship.

Mojares's lecture starts at 2:30 p.m. at the Bulwagang Amo Lorca of UPB. It is open to the public.

BY LEE Lagdameo

"COMMUNICATIONS Technology 'State of Satisfaction,'" by Ryan Omaco

"EVERY Technology Faces Its Own Unique Difficulties, but the Same Ultimate Problem: Connection," by Jon Zamar

Top Pinoy cartoonists illustrate state of local telco industry

THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE telecommunications has become fit for parody. A recent survey, in fact, revealed that nearly 99 percent of Filipinos are dissatisfied with their current communications providers.

The not-that-stellar results prompted top cartoonist Lee Lagdameo to team up with network infrastructure provider Bayan Telecommunications to bring the news home to the status quo and present us the public a candid representation of today's telecommunications industry.

The participating cartoonists were Lagdameo, Jon Zamar and Ryan Omaco.

Reputed to one of the most powerful players in the industry, the company has the most extensive fiber-optics infrastructure in the country and was the first to market revolutionary services like the caller ID, VoIP and the landline-cell phone hybrid, Spot.

One of its new services is the Customer Satisfaction Guarantee program, a P50-million rebate program that aims to back up the company's quick-repair promise.

Sindo Sabanes, chief executive consultant of Bayan Telecommunications, explains: "If a phone or DSL connection malfunctions and is reported for more than 24 hours, a one-day refund (equivalent to P1,000 and be given for every hour beyond the problem was amended." If a subscriber's connection is out for more than 72 hours, on the other hand, his or her service fee for the month would be waived.

"THANK You for Being Patient... Your Call Is Important to Us...." by Omaco

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

Spot the changes

Twice, Ruffa's family said no more would be said about the threatened Bektas-Gutierrez marriage annulment; Yilmaz, supposedly, had a mouthful to say each time

THE FIRST SIGN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM the Gutierrezes came on May 8; the second, ve-

YILMAZ BEKTAS

tually the same, on May 10. Yilmaz's supposed two statements, sent to GMA 7's "Startalk" (and read on the air—both TV and radio) were in tone, approach and personality.

Following are excerpts (and we quote the statements verbatim), first the divorce:

May 8

I want to keep this marriage ... We're working on it now because so much damage was made ... Right now it looks like she doesn't want to see me turning behind his back only until she says she doesn't want me or doesn't love me anymore. And I'm going to go on with my life.

Footnote to my family wants Ruffa back. They all love her so much.

Hopefully, when I go to the Philippines everything would be better, like I can speak to her mom and her father.

I can't blame her if I'm going to blame her then. If, he blaming myself too. Why would I blame her family? That's my family too.

Spot the changes

From page F1

Consequences

But may be a Filipino, Arabic, or Muslim, but will it a family in a marriage two things remain constant: Love and respect.

I believe that all our actions have consequences. That if indeed I had violence in my decision, wouldn't I be smart enough to understand that I will surely suffer the consequences of my actions?

The story is already coming out in the Turkish papers and there's all blaming me. But still, I'm keeping silent about the issues. Time will tell who's right and who's wrong.

I hated that my name is coming out in the papers. That Hadia's and my daughters' names are out in the papers. I have access to the press people here, too. But I never spiked them to write about my wife or my children.

Respect

I don't intend for other people to look at me as a poor guy. I just hope he get respect back from the Filipino people.

Again, I won't stop fighting for my family and my children until my wife tells me she doesn't need me or has an ovation.

But why do people keep jumping into conclusions? I will say now that mother Arroyo is not the unmentionable criteria that I was referring to. That title is known who he or she is.

I still tell the public who is in this when I come to Manila to fetch my family. I will tell you who is this before my, Hadia, the children and I will be together.

That is my hope. To get my family both together and leave Manila as a family.

May 8

In the public opinion of Philippines, I had made one of the two most important decisions of human life on the date of March 25, 2003. And I married Hadia Gutierrez and I vow to my wife's father who was supporting this candidate stays in my own life, I follow the lead of this respectful man, who has all the characteristics of being a true leader.

My second ethics of behaving decently On the date of May 8, 2007, I was obliged to give the second most important decision in human life, divorce. Unfortunately, the cause of the decision was once again my wife's close relations and one particular relative of hers who take advantage over my wife and who have poor conscience and fairness. Hearing an affair with another person is definitely not included among the reasons.

When I was 20 years old, I met (my wife), loved her with all my heart for seven years. I had departed many of my principles for her and we got married. Leaving my beloved ones after having two great children due to such ridiculous reasons cannot be discussed. Apart from the love of God I have in my heart, there is no one here I feel for the love, and affection I have for Hadia and our children. However, only my honest and pride are above my affection for my family, my love and everything I know. I prefer living a chinderosa but difficult, short life instead of living a ... dishonored life full of earthly goods of the pompous world.

As I respect visions of everybody, I respect the respect of others. The divorce decision is my elimination or my wife. This is not a verdict but a decision and I wish this could be considered as an elimination and causing problems ... could be settled in cooperation with the family members. However, her family and close relations made the situation even worse instead of being constructive. Hadia is unable to show enough attention to her family due to her own professional career and profession.

And she conceded her stay in the Philippines without my consent are the only causes of our decision for getting divorced. Subsequently a series of unusual negative, psychological and physical violence and unpunishable minds supervened ... the burning up of the happy family. Hadia consciously and willingly lay the ground for the beginning of this decline with the support of her family and without feeling the need for said snatching.

Differences

However, my innocent daughters, aged 2 and 3, are under a heavy burden due to meaningless decisions taken in eagerness for hasty without making soul searching. And to my supposition, this is not fair. I would like to remind that those children are not sugar for taste or money. The most important wish of a child is seeing parents together, who have brought him or her into this world without asking the child.

Hadia mentioned the cultural differences

MTC

Shop at any participating Robinsons Stores and get FREE "Meet the Robinsons" Buy 1 Take 1 coupons.

MAY 07 to JUNE 05

IN ROBINSONS CINEMAS JUNE 06

MTRCB Rating: G

NOW SHOWING!!!

MARK GARY'S

SANDALANG BAHAY

Albert Martinez Ronnie Lazaro
Manilo Buencamino

Witness the dramatic & sumptuous humorous life and times of a Pinoy family. The film deals with facing one's past and coming up to the truth that resides in the darkest corner of the soul. This is seen in the entertaining lives of the three Sandalang sisters.

Don't fail to watch this cinematic masterpiece!

May 16 to 22!

Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

glorietta GREENBELT ROBINSONS TOWN ANSALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Museum

AT THE CINEMAS

TEX

G1	1	2 SHREK 3	3 SHOOTER	4 SPIDER-MAN 3
G4	1	2 SHREK 3	3 SHREK 3	
	4 SHOOTER	5 FRACTURE	6 SHREK 3	7 SPIDER-MAN 3
GB1	1	SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SHREK 3	
GB3	1	2 SHREK 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3	
	3 FRACTURE	4 SHREK 3	5 SHREK 3	
ATC	1	SHREK 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3	
	3 FRACTURE	4 SHOOTER	5 SHREK 3	
ACC	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SHOOTER	3 TARKSHA	4 GRAY MATTERS
M2	1	SHREK 3	2 FRACTURE	
	3 SHOOTER	4 SHREK 3	5 SPIDER-MAN 3	

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA

TOWN

ANSALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

Greenbelt 3 Dance Theater presents: Broadway Grandstanders
May 12 & 13, 2007

Christagllis

ONETHOE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 730-7882 or 751-2907

Ayala Museum

CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Treasures from the Montreal Art Museum
Ongoing until May 27, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 loc 21 to 24 / e-mail museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Melinda wore 'Whitney' on results night

By Kathryn Fulara Reyes

EVEN WITH SEVEN COVERS on display underneath, Mikaila Dyrholm couldn't escape the heat last week.

Mikaila's elimination from "Search for Star" came in a shock scenario.

Considered neither "Idol material" nor a place in the finals by the judges who has consistently delivered week after week, it's true.

Clearly, she was fit to leave. Plus news, agency firearms quizzed she hardest to please judge in saying that her world's break was "perfect," making Mikaila first the finish.

But, none of that matters to her now. "I really feel like I won because of where I ended up in the competition," the 29-year-old from Vancouver said in a conference call on Friday. "I was up against two amazing women. I think they did a fabulous job."

"I knew I was passing the oldest room [and] older viewers] might not quote on [all four] voting, but that's okay," said the very graceful Mikaila.

On Wednesday, 17 year old Andrea Sparks, 8 Boulder, Arizona and 35-year-old Blake Lewis dwelled their respective chip it out in the finals.

What style or album might you customize next?

Not told to say, "You know, anything from the heart."

Who did you laugh or joke around with the most on the show?

Everybody is hilarious to me. I'm kind of the mistress of the bunch [and] I call them all my babies. Jacobs, being the youngest, is my baby girl. Blake is kind of the class clown.

What went through your mind when Bayani told the judges and ended her run?

When he called our applause, I kind of had an idea [it would be me. As I was just kind of sitting there] breathe and heard of would to go to the next step. It wasn't to find to I thought it was going to be. It was actually a happy moment when I made it this far. So the kind of glad it turned out this way.

Did you get a chance to speak to Simon after words?

I did. He told me that he really believed in me and wanted me to succeed. And that's great to hear, especially coming from Simon, you know. But all of the judges were so sweet to me afterwards, and just really encouraging about what's to come in the future.

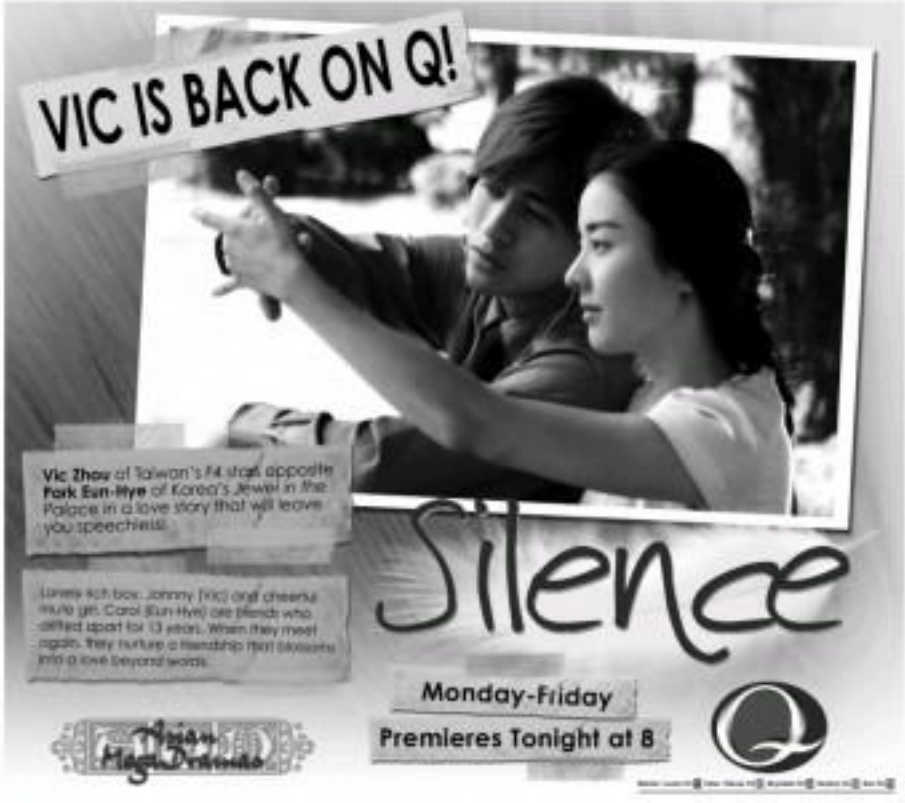
When you sang on "Power" you brought out the backup singers. Was that motivated by a message to your fans in a backup singer?

I had remembered doing the song before and going back to sing with them for first time, and those girls are amazing and I like to call them singers' singers now, because they're not really backup singers; they can all hold their own upfront. I love the fact that people get to see them in their element.

PHOTOS ON P4

MELINDA Dyrholm, who was eliminated last week, performs in front of the judges on "American Idol."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE



SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

SPORTSTIME

Witness WWE's Judgment Day at these SM Cinemas:

Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa

Premiere Screening:
TOMORROW! - 11:00 p.m.

Admission Prices: P 300 (Mega Manila) - P 200 (Cebu, Clark, Pampanga) - P 150 (Davao)
*With P 50 OFF for students

IMAX

SM Cinema and movietime showtime give you a chance to print the certificate in Bonus size, at Lobo Printers!

Be one of the 30 lucky winners to enjoy movies on a whole lot more and regular prizes this June 30!

Come to see for real and try it. Email winnings to promo@lobocorp.com or visit any May 31, 2007 Printer. *E-Raising will be chosen from all the correct answers. Each will win one (1) HP F2180 printer. Winners will be contacted by e-mail and will be announced on the premiere night of SM Cinema or over the radio thereafter.

Lobo Printers

COME AND VISIT SHREK 3 CAMP FAR, FAR AWAY

TODAY! at SM Supermalls' Grand Entrance

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3 - THE
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 WHISPER
4 SHREK 3
5 SHREK 3
6 FRACTURE
7 LUCKY YOU
8 IndieSine: SANDALANG BAHAY
9 28 WEEKS LATER
10 THE CONDEMNED

NOW SHOWING!!!

MARK GARY'S
SANDALANG BAHAY
Albert Martinez Rosanna Roces
Nonie Buencamino

May 16 to 22!

Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA

1 SHREK 3
2 LUCKY YOU
THE CONDEMNED
3 WHISPER
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SHREK 3
7 FRACTURE

METRO EAST

1 WHISPER
2 SHREK 3
3 SHREK 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 FRACTURE
6 THE CONDEMNED
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 LUCKY YOU

NOVALICHES

1 SHREK 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

PIONEER

1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 FRACTURE
4 WHISPER

STA. ROSA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 GRAY MATTERS
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 WHISPER
5 SHREK 3

LIPA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SHOOTER
5 THE REAPING

DASMARIÑAS

1 GRAY MATTERS
2 SHREK 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 WHISPER

ANGELES

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

IMUS

1 PREMONITION
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 SHREK 3
5 PERFECT STRANGER
6 WHISPER

STARMILLS

1 FIREHOUSE DOG
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 WHISPER
5 PAN'S LABYRINTH
6 PERFECT STRANGER

BACOLOD

1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESERVE
4 PERFECT STRANGER
5 GRAY MATTERS
6 TURISTAS

ILOILO

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 TURISTAS
4 PAN'S LABYRINTH
5 THE REAPING
6 PERFECT STRANGER

In Robinsons Cinemas June 6!
Dress up any participating Robinsons Stores and get FREE "MEET THE ROBINSONS" Buy 1 Take 1 movie coupons

Melinda wore ...

From page F1

too. That was my motivation.

Since you're friends with Marsha (Hamilton), then best woman, did she give you any advice?

Marsha has been great. She's been the person that under stands what I'm going through, so if I need to borrow anything off of her, I can. She's been a rock.

Paula (Shiloh) once told she really wanted you to let loose. Is there a song where you felt you finally did?

Sadly, I think the first time I let loose was after I got eliminated. There's so much that goes through your mind while you're onstage, getting ready to be judged and getting ready to be voted on, that I don't think it's completely achieved letting loose. I think I got close. That (results) night was kind of a ball circle for me. I was able to just let go and have a great time onstage. It really meant a lot to me.

What will you take away from your "Idol" experience?

The biggest thing is, than I know I was really scared to do this at the beginning. And the fact that I was able to step out and do it even in the midst of fear, kind of just gave me an outlook on how strong God has helped me become and how much I've grown from it. I've found my own voice, as opposed to my shouting voice, singing background, and I couldn't have asked for more from this experience.

See and your mother were very close. How did she react last night and what months of advice have your family members given you?

Well, my mom was at home, and so she called me and I was in, so screaming and so excited about everything, and just wanted to tell all make sure I was okay. And then after I told her I was okay she was like, "Great, then I'm okay. We're going to take the next two weeks."

There was a point when you sat with your hosted heroes and never took it off. Did you look at it?

Oh my goodness, every week!

I love them so much. I've missed them. So I think on results night I had Whitney on, and Whitney is my new favorite. I call her Whitney, so maybe she helped me win that one.

How do you feel about the fans'

Spot the changes

From page F1

and yet forward it as an excuse. This is strange. Moreover, the fact that she has told this cultural difference after seven years between us never (you said truth do not have one religion, language and culture. I share all my views with Turkish and Philippines media and public because I want to explain the seemingly fabulous worlds of fame are actually very dark. And their price is nothing but destruction and sadness. Out of all is my own children, and then to Turkish and Philippines community.

Finally, when it comes to getting divorced with Bulla, arrangements are to be made once we give our final positive or negative decision as two political individuals. It shall be carried out by our attorneys. I assure you that I will do my best so that I can protect this home for the sake of my children. I call for praise of individuals respecting the family courage so that I can protect this home. Regardless of all negative aspects of life, I will never forget your hospitality towards me and your smiles. I had experienced for seven years. Philippines shall always live in my heart as my second fatherland.

Melinda wore ...

From page F4

struck and support from the administration?

It feels wonderful. At that point in the competition, it's kind of like, "Well, there's only three of us, so one of us has to get home." I'm very grateful that people wanted me to stick around and believed in me. That means the world to me.

What do you think of the final two?

First of all, Joelle is 17 years old and it does not make any sense to me for a 17-year-old to be able to sing so amazingly well. I see just in your heart, and I think it comes through when she sings.

Blake, I think that he was quite possibly the one of the most original performances "American Idol" has ever had. He takes a song, he makes it his own, whether it's beat boxing, drumming, kind of putting a different groove to it. I believe that he took risks and I am so proud of him for doing that and for stepping out and making people listen to a different style.

"American Idol" airs on Star World every Wednesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. live via satellite, 8 p.m. prime time, and 11:30p.m. replay.

Humor in his chromosomes

By Coris Lacsa

Hilarity was the common thread of Yoyoy Villame's songs, whether about cavemen, geography or physical fitness. He had a Christmas album that took potshots at the Manila filmfest scam in the '90s—'Take It, Take It (Pasko ng Fiasco)'

YESTERDAY

YOYOY Villame, singer-composer, was also an actor, mechanic, driver and politician.

NGAYONG HAPON NAI

SINE NOVELA Presents

Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso?

Para sa isang hamak na katulong, katapatan ng kanyang pangarap ang pakasalan ang kanyang amenong matagal na niyang inibig. Kahit na ang kasal na ito'y puno ng paghihiganti at pagkukunwari.

LUNES - BIYERNES bago mag-Sinasamba Kita

Dramarama sa hapon ng GMA

AFTER PLAYING MANILA'S MUSIC JOB OVER from decades, what does one do for an encore?

Singer-composer Ramon "Yoyoy" Villame didn't need a comic song.

The Visayan crusade lasted video shoot of cavalier, arrest Friday at age 75, but counted the tours for seventy-minute years 1960s. Even before the boom in the mainstream music scene in 1972, rumbling "Magallan," a ditty of historical facts, he was already a recording artist in Tagalog-ese, almost for land not his then-long-playing albums, an old favorite selection except for "Magallan," an English ditt.

Yoyoy's star-quotient simply knew fallow season time evening, but he was destined for the big stirs, as subsequent events proved.

Public demand

As product of constant public demand, the singer from Cebu, Bohol, had wanted on the power offensive to work in charm in Pinoy music lovers. Hilarity was the common thread of his songs, whether about cavemen ("Batuta si Banda"), geography ("My Country, My Philippines") or physical fitness ("Mag-exercise Tayo"). He had a Christmas album that took potshots at the Manila Film Festival scam in the '90s, "Take It, Take It (Pasko ng Fiasco)".

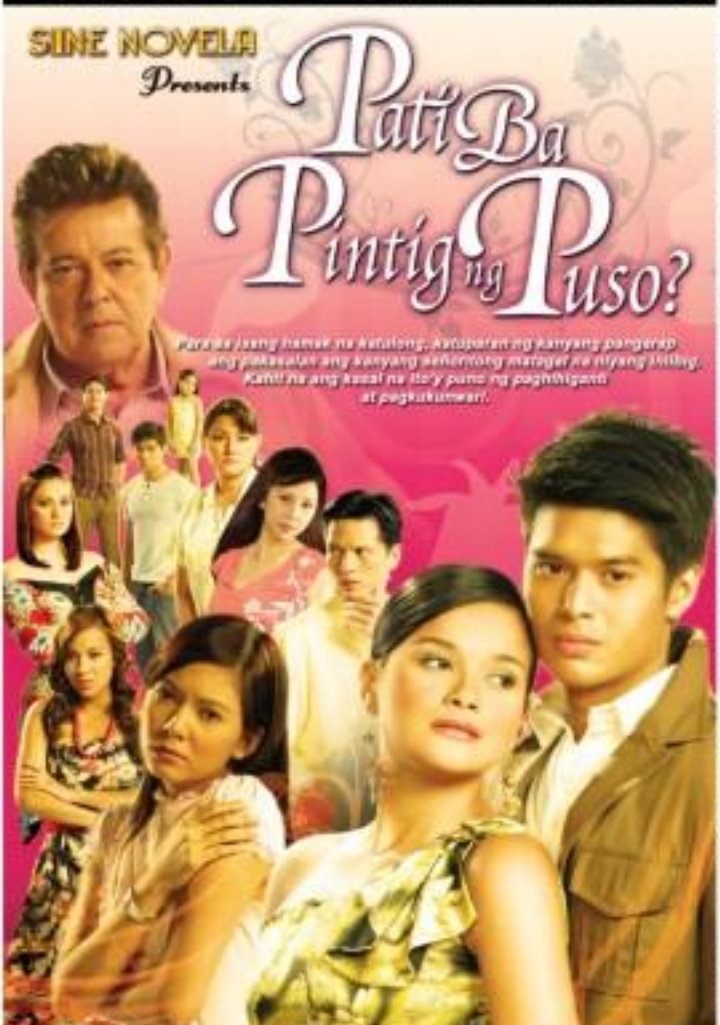
But the song that would prove to be his most popular art was "Bandala," silly-ish tongue-twister of indecipherable lyrics that roused family Christmas. The song produced instant-crowds—from a comic version by Aiza Seguerra to a dissected take by The Company.

Controversial hit

Most famous a radio single was censored by many twenty. Bought, The Chinese community in Cebu, who had left mocked by the song, demanded of that it be withdrawn off the kitchen play for the censored. Yoyoy would later reveal that a plan to bring the case to court had misfired. The complainants could not find a single Chinese word in the song.

Businessmen, not a few of them Chinese, readied up to planning the dirty in-jokelessness. After all, it was the worst publicity for the lineup.

But then the cause sang large Yoyoy from sing



ing concerts in Russia and China where, he noted, as he learned the sensibility he received media-interest he became of "Bandala."

Serious person

Born Nov. 16, 1932, the stocky, bubbly entertainer was, ironically, a serious person off-stage. But he seemed to have found his niche in his chosen career to be able to share a new picture of life through his songs.

Yoyoy told us in an earlier interview at his Las Piñas residence: "Noong elementarya po lang ako naglo-compose na ako ng kanta sa Bol. Kwait sa mga kaklase ko. Malaki. Pag hindi ako umaasal ng mga kaklase ko na ng mga maganda sa kanila. Minsan ay ang mga ito ako sa mga. Malaking compliments. Ayoko kasi ng pangit ang ginagawa."

Imported driver

An auto-mechanic career graduate in Tagbilaran, Bohol, the youngest of 10 children came to Manila as a soldier-trainee of the Philippine Army. He was sent to Pampanga during the time of the Hukbalahap in 1952. Unhappy with the post, he quietly asked for a discharge after the surrender of rebel leader Luis Taruc.

He ended up becoming a passenger jeepney driver plying the Bacoor-Pasay Taft-Santa Cruz-Divisoria route.

"Sumakay kami dito dating mga dalaw ng mga pasyente sa Manila," he said. "Dito ako nagko-compose ng mga kalbong mga drive. Pag may nakita akong mga artista, pinapa-autograph ko kanila."

A little known fact is that Yoyoy was a frustrated comedian—singer, both at the Lingayen-Dagupan circuit, he would follow with the Bren Guiamatsit Prize Manila's amateur singing contest where the likes of the Iconics, Bernardo Monsod and the Bayanihans were discovered.

The big break

"Pero mangga sine ang ako ko—Binatang Bisaya," he lamented.

It was when he went back home to Bohol in 1961 that his break finally came. The manager of the fifth Lino Brocka passenger buses, where he had also worked as driver, saw his potential and put up his own recording studio, Elsonic Records, just for Yoyoy. There, the singer who "entertained relatives in baptisms, weddings and funerals" recorded his first album.

The songs, which became big favorites on the airwaves, included "Bandala" and "Bayan Bayanan" from the exciting tracks on the big seven. Those included "Magallan," "Bohol and Negros Oil."

Over 50 titles

Comedian Dimples Romana's big break in showbiz was his first co-starry appearance with in "Ako Lang," says "Magallan," was said to "Bohol song. He would do over 50 more records, some of which were independently produced, like the re-released "Bikini Brodkastin," where he played a Visayan broadcaster, and "Pepot Artista," about "an aspiring bodabil in the song Bohol. "My Country, My Philippines" was played in the opening scene of "Ang Pagkakalaglag sa Maraino Oliveros."

There was no need to pound on anything composers' doors for recognition. Vicor and Alpha Records came knocking on his door. "Mag-exercise Tayo" subsidized a hit in 1977.

Yoyoy can more than 25 albums and was several sales awards, among them coveted platinum for his album "Tricia Ely Jose" and a platinum for "Mahalim and Dagohoy" in 1991. He also won Best Novelty for "Pinoy ng mga Isda" in the 1995 Awit Awards.

Political career

Outside show business, he was Las Piñas City councilor from 1988 to 1998. As public servant, his performance was flawless a bit, but nothing done to his performance as an entertainer and recording artist.

Last Friday, Yoyoy was rushed to the Las Piñas Medical Center after complaining of chest pains and difficulty in breathing. He was admitted at 9 a.m. and passed away at 12 noon.

He was survived by his fourteen orphaned singer-lyons, with whom he had six children—Rhoda Jane, Apple, Gilbert, Ramon Jr., Lillian and Erika. Ramon Jr. now is also a singer.